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## Meiji Period Japanese Bronze Okimono Group Sculpture Of A Mochi Rice Maker



1 938 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 25 cm

Height : 27.5 cm

### Description

An unusual Japanese Meiji period bronze okimono group sculpture of a mochi rice cake maker contemplating a pair of rats feasting on some spilled rice. He is depicted smoking a pipe while perched on the edge of the usu (mortar) he has used to make mochi, a glutinous cake made of mochigome rice. The handle of the kine (mallet) he has used to pound the rice rests against his leg. He holds a drinking flask in his left hand. His jacket lapels bear the name of the rice store, Kome Juku, and the back of his jacket displays the logo of the store. The group is mounted on a bronze base with a wicker texture to the sides and four feet styled as groups of bamboo. Making mochi is a traditional ceremony at New Year. Height: 27.5cm (10.8in) Width: 25cm (9.8in) Marks: Apart from the marks for the

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rice store, there do not appear to be any marks that might indicate the maker. However, there is a double triangle or bow mark on both the kine and usu (see images). We are not sure to what these refer. Condition: Damage to his lower right leg and possibly to the handle of the kine, where there are some scratches to the patina on his lower left leg (see images). Examination under ultraviolet light does not reveal any restoration in these areas. Other than that, in very good condition with a few very small scuffs and wear commensurate with age.