



Rare Chinese Mixed-metal Spectacle Case, Late Qing, Circa 1900



1 200 EUR

Signature : Rensai Kochu

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gilt bronze

Width : 7 cm

Height : 16 cm

Depth : 2.3 cm

Description

A rare Chinese spectacle case of notably fine quality, dating from the late Qing dynasty or early Republic period, circa 1890-1920. Handmade from patinated copper alloy, the case is enriched with applied contrasting metals, meticulously chased and engraved. The delicacy of the faces, robes, animals, feathers and foliage demonstrates an unusually high degree of craftsmanship. One side depicts Shoulao, the Chinese deity of longevity, with a deer and crane beneath pine branches. The reverse is decorated with an egret or heron among lotus. Together, the scenes convey traditional wishes for longevity, prosperity and success. The inscriptions include ???, associated with immortal longevity, and ????, a wish for repeated success in the imperial examinations. The latter is an auspicious Chinese

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inscription, not an artist's signature. The individually worked metal elements, subtle variation of relief and exceptionally fine engraving distinguish this case from simpler serially produced examples. Its rarity, sophisticated decoration and remarkable quality make it a genuine collector's find. The case retains its cord, bead and tassel. Dimensions: Height: 16 cm / 6.30 in Width: 7 cm / 2.76 in Depth: 2.3 cm / 0.91 in Weight: 125 g Condition: Good antique condition with light wear and age marks. Small rim dings and interior oxidation and verdigris are present. The cord and tassel show expected age-related wear. No structural repairs observed. The precise composition of the contrasting metals has not been scientifically tested. Spectacles are not included. Tracked and insured worldwide delivery. Professional secure packing. Please examine all photographs, as they form an integral part of the description.