Monumental Indian Bronze Makara Aftaba, C. 1850



6 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 54 cm

Diameter : 27 cm

Height : 50 cm

Description

Dating from around 1850, this monumental Indian bronze aftaba functions as a sculptural object as much as a vessel. Its generous scale, dramatic silhouette and untouched patina make it a strong focal point for a curated interior.

A heavily cast, rounded body stands on a lotus-petal base and rises into a tall neck with fluted, domed lid on its original hinged pin. One side carries a long, sweeping spout ending in a stylised animal head; the other is anchored by a fully modelled makara handle, the mythological water creature of Indian art, gripping the lid finial in its jaws. The interplay between the static central volume and these zoomorphic elements creates a dynamic profile on a console, plinth or mantel.

Dealer

Gillers Antiques

Specialists in 19th-century European silverware, porcelain and décor

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The surface is densely hand engraved with scrolling foliage, palmettes and geometric bands. Under light, the graver cuts catch against a deep brown-black and green patina developed over many decades, with mineral deposits in recesses and around the foot. The underside retains rough sand-cast texture and minor casting flaws, reinforcing its mid-19th-century origin rather than modern manufacture.

Measurements
o Height approx. 50 cm (19.7´´)
o Span spout to handle approx. 54 cm (21.3´´)
o Maximum body diameter approx. 27 cm (10.6´´)
o Weight approx. 9.92 kg

Condition
Structurally excellent and visually very coherent. The hinge operates correctly. There is an old hard-solder / weld repair at the junction where the handle meets the body, long patinated and completely secure, and a small historic chip to the tail fin. No further repairs, no cracks, no modern polishing or artificial patina; wear is confined to natural contact points and enhances the overall character.

Shipping & Packaging
Shipped fully tracked and insured.
Shipping cost includes professional packaging, careful handling, and secure postage.
Packed using recycled materials where possible.
Please study all photographs as they form part of the description.
Questions are welcome.