



Japan - Isho Tansu - Taisho Period (1912-1926)

1 800 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Painted wood

Length : 89 cm

Width : 56,5 cm

Height : 36,5 cm

Description

A Japanese tansu cabinet in red and black lacquer, featuring two wide sliding doors in the upper section and five drawers in the lower section. The piece displays a beautiful harmony between the natural wood with its pronounced grain and the black metal frame typical of Japanese Meiji-period joinery. The upper sliding panels are made of wood with a particularly attractive undulating grain, creating a visual effect reminiscent of natural landscapes ("mokume"), a highly sought-after feature in fine furniture. The metal handles and decorative wrought-iron plaques are finely cut with a stylized floral motif, reminiscent of Japanese symbolism of prosperity and elegance. This type of furniture is traditionally called "Mizuya Tansu" or "Chadansu," depending on its use. Given its

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structure and combination of doors and drawers, it is most likely a kitchen Mizuya Tansu, used to store dishes, utensils, textiles related to culinary arts, and household items. Tansu were designed to be mobile, hence the presence of iron side handles for lifting or securing the piece when moving it, in a Japan where wooden houses were frequently subject to fires and relocations. Carved wood/wavy grain: the highly graphic natural pattern is Keyaki (Japanese elm), a noble wood prized for its strength and exceptional decorative appeal. Blackened wrought-iron hardware: typical of the regional workshops of Sendai or Yonezawa, renowned for the quality of their work. Hardware. Floral motifs on the decorative plaques: probably stylized chrysanthemums, imperial symbols of longevity, renewal, and distinction. Traditional joinery: the piece features mortise and tenon joints and visible metal reinforcements, confirming traditional craftsmanship from the late 19th century. Origin: Japan. Period: Taisho period (1912-1926). Dimensions: Length: 89 cm; Height: 36.5 cm; Width: 56.5 cm. Condition: Very good condition - Minor wear consistent with age.