



## Korea - Ch'aek Bandaji Front-opening Chest - Joseon Dynasty, 19th Century

2 500 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 101 cm

Height : 64 cm

Depth : 46 cm

### Description

This piece of furniture belongs to the category of bandaji, traditional Korean chests characterized by a hinged front opening. More precisely, it is a ch'aek bandaji, intended for storing books, documents, folded textiles, or personal belongings, and used in both scholars' residences and wealthy households during the Joseon Dynasty. Elongated and rectangular in shape, the chest is made of solid wood (keyaki), assembled using traditional techniques with mortise and tenon joints and corner reinforcements. The horizontally divided front opens with a wide hinged panel, revealing a large, undivided interior space, in keeping with the functional purpose of this type of furniture. The most striking element is the abundant wrought-iron decoration. The front is structured by long, riveted vertical hinges,

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complemented by corner plates, side clips, and several handles. The central locking system, consisting of a large, thick iron lock plate adorned with stylized openwork motifs, is typical of Joseon bandaji and illustrates the desire to protect the valuables it contained. The slightly overhanging top displays a deep, antique patina, marked by signs of use, rubbing, and natural color variations. The interior, left in its raw wood state, reflects a purely functional approach, devoid of superfluous decorative embellishment, in keeping with the Confucian aesthetic of the period. The massive and intentionally expressive iron fittings are not merely decorative elements: they emphasize the structure of the piece and affirm its solidity. Their dark patina contrasts with the warmth of the aged wood, creating a visual harmony characteristic of antique Korean furniture. The bandaji's typology, the design of the hinged panel, the hardware design, and the overall patina allow for a reliable dating to the 19th-century Joseon Dynasty. This ch'aek bandaji is a very fine example of Joseon Korean furniture, combining functionality, aesthetic strength, and authenticity. Its large size, the richness of its hardware, and its excellent state of preservation make it a choice piece, sought after by both collectors of Korean art and for integration into a contemporary interior. Origin: Korea. Period: Joseon Dynasty, 19th century. Dimensions: Length: 101 cm; Height: 64 cm; Depth: 46 cm. Provenance: French private collection.