



## Japanese Bronze By Miura Wakô (kazumitsu) - Shishi Dog



1 100 EUR

Signature : Miura Wako (????)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 22 cm

Height : 25 cm

### Description

This finely cast Japanese bronze depicts a powerful Tamanori shishi (????), the auspicious guardian lion-dog, balanced on a sacred jewel. Sculpted and signed by Miura Wako (????), it dates from the Showa period (20th century). The figure embodies the left-hand guardian (Shizuno, ungyo), recognizable by its closed mouth and serene, introspective expression, symbolizing self-control, achievement, and the protection of spiritual essence. Seated in a posture that is both serene and imposing, the shishi rests a forepaw on an openwork jewel (tama), a powerful Shinto symbol representing divine authority, cosmic energy, and the mastery of chaotic forces. The interplay between the animal's imposing mass and the underlying openwork sphere creates a dynamic balance of weight and lightness,

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demonstrating great technical skill and thoughtful composition. The modeling is assured and expressive: the compact, muscular body is rendered with harmonious proportions, while the flowing mane and tail unfurl in elegant, stylized curls that enliven the surface. The alert gaze and pricked ears convey vigilance and controlled power, qualities traditionally associated with guardians of sanctuaries. The sculpture is covered with a rich, deep, and uniformly preserved patina, which accentuates the sculptural depth while maintaining the sharpness of detail across its entire surface. The finely openwork jewel is particularly noteworthy; it demonstrates masterful casting and meticulous finishing, and forms the visual and symbolic focal point of the composition. Such technical refinement, combined with strong iconographic clarity, places this work within the high-quality Showa tradition of bronze okimono inspired by shrines, produced for discerning Japanese collectors as well as the demanding export market. In Shinto tradition, the tamanori shishi is a particularly auspicious form, embodying protection, prosperity, and good fortune. The tama (?) is considered the wish-fulfilling jewel (hoju), sometimes interpreted as the spiritual heart of the shrine itself, while the left guardian (ungyo) symbolizes the containment and preservation of divine power. Examples signed by identifiable Showa-period sculptors, such as Miura Wako, are increasingly sought after by collectors of Japanese metalwork for their synthesis of traditional symbolism, sculptural presence, and technical excellence. This bronze is remarkably well-preserved, with a stable patina and exquisitely fine details. It bears the artist's signature, thus confirming its attribution. Circa 1950.