



Japanese Tansu Sendai - Dresser - Circa 1900



1 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 126

Height : 96

Depth : 40

Description

Sendai Style Tansu - Dressing Chest - Circa 1900. Authentic Sendai style isho-dansu (dressing chest) from the late Meiji period. This traditional Japanese piece testifies to the craftsmanship of artisans from the Sendai region, renowned for producing some of the most prestigious tansu in Japan. This piece illustrates the historical transition of the Meiji era, when Sendai swordsmiths, after the ban on wearing swords in 1876, redirected their art towards creating metalwork for furniture. The chest consists of two stackable sections (kasane-dansu), offering the modularity characteristic of tansu designed to be moved. The main structure is made of fine Japanese wood, likely keyaki (Japanese elm) or sugi (Japanese cedar), which displays a warm reddish-brown patina. The wrought ironwork is

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the distinctive feature of this piece. The imposing circular medallions adorning each drawer, the C-shaped handles, the reinforced corners, and the decorative hinges testify to the technical mastery inherited from the tradition of sword smiths. Each metal element features organic patterns and flowing lines characteristic of the Sendai style.

The interior layout reveals an ingenious design with drawers of varying sizes suitable for storing clothing and textiles. A side door conceals two additional compartments, adding to the piece's functionality. The side handles facilitated transport, a reminder that these pieces often accompanied their owners during moves or travels. This piece dates from the period when tansu were exported to Europe and America, destined for collectors and expatriates fascinated by Japanese art. Good overall condition with a natural patina from use. The veneered back is consistent with the techniques of the period.

There are two small chips (visible in the photos), and one hinge on the door is damaged. Height 96 cm, Width 126 cm, Depth 40 cm