Massive Antique Tibetan Ritual Ewer With Avalokiteshvara (chenrezig), Buddhist Temple, C19th



1 650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Copper

Height : 55 cm

Description

Large and impressive antique Tibetan ritual ewer, richly decorated with chased and repoussé relief, dating to the late 19th century.
Of exceptional scale, measuring approximately 55 cm in height, this vessel was intended for monastic or temple use, rather than domestic use. The body is formed in a dark copper alloy and is finely worked throughout, with applied decoration and coloured inlays characteristic of Tibetan ritual metalwork of the period. The surface is further enriched with Tibetan characters, chased into the metal as part of the decorative and ritual programme.
The central medallion is decorated in high relief with a six-armed manifestation of Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig), the Bodhisattva of Compassion. The principal hands are joined at the

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heart in anjali mudra, a defining iconographic feature of Avalokiteshvara. The surrounding arms hold a sword (khadga), a rosary (mala), a ritual vessel (kalasha), and a scroll or scripture, forming a syncretic tantric expression uniting compassion, wisdom, teaching, and ritual blessing. The figure is surrounded by a flaming aureole.
The ewer is fitted with a domed lid surmounted by an animal finial and retains its original suspended metal tag. Originally fitted with a linking chain connecting the lid to the body, now lost, as is common on ritual ewers of this type. The handle and spout are formed as stylised mythical creatures, reinforcing the ritual character of the piece.
Tibet, late 19th century.
Condition: Good condition, with surface wear and patina consistent with age and ritual use.
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