



Japanese Hammered Bronze Vase By Gyokusendo: Vine Leaves And Grapes



1 100 EUR

Signature : Gyokusendo (???)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Height : 26 cm

Description

This remarkable vase (Showa era, 1926-1989) is the work of Gyokusendo (???), the famous Japanese metal workshop founded in 1816 in Tsubame, Niigata prefecture, a region long renowned for the excellence of its metal craftsmanship. For over Gyokusendo has remained a family-run workshop, perpetuating the rare and demanding technique of tsuiki: the art of shaping vases entirely by hand from a single sheet of copper, without melting, soldering or industrial intervention. This vase expresses this heritage with remarkable elegance and sobriety. Rather than relying on ostentatious ornament, it draws its presence from the discreet authority of its form and the extraordinary sophistication of its surface. Its body, with its harmonious proportions

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and slightly proportions and slightly conical shape, allows the eye to travel uninterrupted across a richly nuanced field of hammered copper and patina. Its decoration is based on a grapevine motif, with stylized grape leaves and hanging bunches of grapes spread across the surface in a fluid, almost calligraphic rhythm, almost calligraphic. The leaves are rendered with slightly lobed contours and darkened lines, while the rounded forms of the grapes emerge with a discreet sculptural emphasis, creating a subtle relief that seems to grow organically from the metal itself. The motif is both decorative and symbolic, evoking abundance, cultivation and the cycle of the seasons - themes deeply rooted in Japanese decorative art. The surface is particularly captivating. A luminous background in warm tones of copper, amber and reddish brown are enriched by passages of deep russet, smoky violet, charcoal and an almost black patina, creating a visual depth that changes beautifully under changing light. These tonal variations give the vine leaves and grapes a remarkable vitality, so that the decor seems almost to sparkle over the curved body of the vase. The overall effect is both painterly and restrained, combining the richness and rigor characteristic of the finest Japanese metalwork. Like all Gyokusendo works, this vase is the fruit of thousands of precise hammer blows, each contributing to the balance, strength and rhythm of the form. This slow, highly disciplined process leaves the subtle but undeniable imprint of the craftsman's hand. Each piece is unique: the subtleties of the form, surface and patina give each Gyokusendo an intrinsic singularity, a visual atmosphere and presence of its own. The techniques perpetuated by Gyokusendo are part of an ancestral know-how recognized as intangible cultural heritage in Japan. This distinction honors not the objects themselves, but the exceptional

human skills and but rather the exceptional human skills and traditional methods national cultural identity. In the case of tsuiki, this knowledge is transmitted directly from master to apprentice over years of assiduous practice, ensuring the continuity of a living tradition of extraordinary refinement. Gyokusendo's reputation extends far beyond Japan's borders. An example is its collaboration with the prestigious Maison de Champagne Champagne House, who turned to Gyokusendo because it was the only workshop capable of producing large hand-hammered copper vases of absolute structural solidity the highest aesthetic standards. It's a discreet but eloquent testimony to the workshop's unique mastery, where technical perfection and artistic sensibility meet without compromise. uncompromisingly. Buying a Gyokusendo vase is much more than just buying a decorative object. decorative object. It's part of a Japanese craft tradition that values time, patience, time, patience, knowledge of materials and discreet beauty. beauty. As the copper takes on a patina and deepens over time, the piece gains in expressiveness, acquiring a presence both personal and timeless. timeless presence. A superb collector's piece, equally at home in a refined contemporary interior, as well as in a prestigious collection of Japanese Japanese decorative arts collection, or in a place where discreet luxury in all its splendor.