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Large Sumida Gawa Mug With Applied Sennin Figure, Signed Ryosai -- Inoue Ryosai Workshop, Meiji



350 EUR

Signature : Sumida Gawa, Inoue Ryosai

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Earthenware

Diameter : 8

Height : 12.5

Description

Substantial Sumida ware (??? / Sumida-gawa) mug, Japan, late Meiji to Taisho period, c. 1900-1920, signed Ryosai (??) and attributed to the workshop of Inoue Ryosai (????) -- one of the most celebrated producers of Sumida ware. Materials: dark-bodied earthenware, heavily ribbed and wheel-thrown, finished with the characteristic matte black Sumida slip (rather than the orange-red slip seen on other examples from the kiln). The upper third and interior are covered in a dramatic flambé glaze ranging through aubergine-black, amber, iron-yellow and plum-red, with irregular drips running down the ribbed body -- a kiln effect prized by the Ryosai workshop. The hand-pulled handle, modeled as a gnarled branch, is covered in the same flowing amber-black flambé glaze. The applied

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decoration combines modeled earthenware (face, hands, feet) with porcelain fragments in underglaze cobalt blue and white (robe, jar). Subject: a sennin (??) -- most likely Chokaro Sennin (???), the Daoist immortal -- depicted as a bald elderly figure with a deeply lined, expressive face modeled with remarkable realism, leaning over the rim of the mug. He wears a porcelain robe with blue-and-white floral motifs and grasps a large porcelain blue-and-white sake jar or gourd, resting on an amber-glazed support suggesting a rock or cloud. The figure is fully sculpted in high relief, his head rising above the lip of the mug. Hallmark: applied porcelain cartouche on the reverse of the body, painted in underglaze cobalt blue with the cursive signature Ryosai (??), characteristic of the Inoue Ryosai workshop. Dimensions: H 12.5 cm, D 8 cm. Weight 440 g. Condition: honest age-related wear. Light surface abrasion and minor glaze nibbles to the ribbed ridges. The sennin and jar are intact, with no visible restoration. Glazed interior; holds liquid.