



## Japanese Hammered Bronze Vase By Gyokusendo: Doves, Branches And Leaves

1 400 EUR



Signature : Gyokusendo (???)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Diameter : 28 cm

Height : 25 cm

### Description

This striking vase, created during the Showa period (1926-1989), is a work of Gyokusendo (???), the celebrated metal atelier founded in 1816 in Tsubame, Niigata--an area long renowned for the exceptional quality of its metal craftsmanship. For over two centuries, Gyokusendo has remained a family-run workshop, preserving the rare and exacting tsuiki technique: the art of forming vessels entirely by hand from a single sheet of copper, without casting or welding. The present vase embodies that legacy with quiet authority. Its beauty does not rely on excess ornament, but on the refinement of form and the

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extraordinary subtlety of its surface. The body is elegantly proportioned, its gently swelling contours allowing the eye to move seamlessly across a richly modulated field of hammered copper and layered patination.

The decoration is centered on a serene avian motif: two doves resting among stylized foliage, rendered with a graceful, almost calligraphic economy of line. Their softly rounded bodies and delicately articulated wings emerge in low relief, conveying both tenderness and quiet presence. In Japanese visual language, doves evoke peace, harmony, and fidelity--imbuing the composition with a calm, contemplative resonance.

This imagery unfolds against a striking dark blue ground, a feature that distinguishes the present work. The deep, luminous blue--subtly variegated with tones of indigo, charcoal, and near-black--creates a dramatic yet refined backdrop, from which the warm copper hues of the birds and foliage emerge with heightened clarity. The contrast between the cool, atmospheric ground and the glowing metal surface lends the vase a remarkable visual depth, shifting gently with changing light.

As with all works by Gyokusendo, the vase is the result of thousands of deliberate hammer strikes, each contributing to the balance, resilience, and rhythm of the form. The process leaves behind faint but vital traces of the maker's hand, ensuring that no two pieces are ever identical. Each example possesses its own tonal character and subtle individuality.

The techniques preserved by Gyokusendo belong to a lineage recognized in Japan as an Important Intangible Cultural Property--an acknowledgment not of

objects, but of the exceptional human skill required to sustain such traditions. In tsuiki, this knowledge is transmitted directly from master to apprentice over many years, ensuring the continuity of a highly refined craft language.

Gyokusendo's reputation extends well beyond Japan. Notably, the Champagne house Krug commissioned the workshop to produce large hand-hammered copper vessels--an undertaking possible only through Gyokusendo's unique ability to combine structural precision with aesthetic refinement. It stands as a discreet yet powerful testament to the atelier's singular mastery.

To acquire a vase by Gyokusendo is not simply to obtain a decorative object, but to engage with a living tradition--one defined by time, discipline, and material sensitivity. As the copper continues to mature, its patina deepens, and the piece evolves, gaining further richness and individuality.

A superb collector's work, equally suited to a refined contemporary interior or a serious collection of Japanese decorative arts--where true luxury is expressed through restraint, craftsmanship, and permanence.