



Ivory Okimono - The Rakan And The Hossu - Japan, Meiji Period (1868-1920)



950 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Ivory

Diameter : 7

Height : 8,7

Description

Small one-piece carved ivory okimono depicting a Rakan, a disciple of the Buddha who has attained enlightenment. Dating from the late 19th century, this work stands out for the strength of its expression and the refinement of its execution, characteristic of the golden age of Japanese carving.

Iconographic Analysis

Posture:

The Rakan is depicted seated on a rocky base in a dynamic and expressive pose. His strongly defined facial features, combined with the ritual tonsure, convey an intense spirituality imbued with profound humanity.

Attributes:

He firmly holds a hossu (a traditional fly-whisk made from horsehair), a symbol of compassion

Dealer

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and spiritual authority in Zen Buddhism, used to dispel desires and obstacles without harming living beings.

Ornamentation (kesa):

The engraving work on the monastic robe is remarkable. One can distinguish a dragon moving among clouds as well as the head of a komainu (guardian lion-dog), executed with great precision through delicate relief carving and fine incisions.

Carving Technique

The sculpture demonstrates great mastery in the rendering of the drapery and anatomical details (hands, feet, elongated ears). The natural patina of the ivory enhances the depth and delicacy of the engravings.

Signature

Stylized signature carved in slight relief within a cartouche located beneath the base.

Base

The base is decorated with a Greek key frieze and floral motifs, completing the refined aesthetic of the piece.

Details

Period: Japan, circa 1860-1920 (Late Edo / Early Meiji period).

Material: Elephant ivory (Elephantidae spp.)

Dimensions: Height: 8.7 cm- Diameter: 7cm

Weight: 211 g

Condition: Minor age crack to the base. Overall in very good condition.

Documentation: Sold with its CITES certificate.