



Okimono - Carved Wood Penis - Fertility Cult (engimono) - Japan



95 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Diameter : 3 cm

Height : 6,3 cm

Description

Curious small sculpture made of dense wood (likely boxwood) depicting a stylized phallus. Resting stably on its circular base shaped as testicles, this piece features no cord holes (himotoshi), which physically classifies it into the category of okimono (objects made to be displayed). However, its core nature relates to the engimono (???), a traditional lucky talisman and object of folk devotion stemming from Shinto worship. The carving is finely executed, characterized by a beautiful, smooth honey-colored patina on the shaft and textured chiseling mimicking pubic hair at the base. Historical and Cultural Context : In Japan, phallic representation is historically sacred and completely devoid of obscene connotations. This engimono is a ritual souvenir, traditionally

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acquired within the grounds of a Shinto shrine (such as Tagata Jinja) during major fertility festivals (Honen Matsuri or Kanamara Matsuri). Kept inside the home or placed on a domestic altar, this type of talisman was used to: Promote fertility, virility, and safe childbirth. Protect reproductive health. Bring prosperity and successful harvests (as a symbol of abundance). Characteristics: Origin: Japan Material: Carved wood Period: 20th century Condition: Excellent condition, authentic and soft handling patina. Dimensions: Height: 6.3 cm Base diameter (testicles): 3 cm Gallery's Note: An unusual and highly symbolic display piece. Through its dual nature as a decorative okimono and a ritual talisman (engimono), this piece stands as a fascinating cultural testament, ideal for a cabinet of curiosities or an Asian art collection.