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Japanese Boxwood Netsuke Depicting A Stylized Mushroom Japan, Edo Period



580 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

Elegant Japanese netsuke carved from beautifully patinated boxwood, depicting a mushroom rendered in a style that is both naturalistic and highly refined. The piece immediately captivates through the purity of its line and the remarkable balance of its sculptural composition. The finely ribbed cap, delicately carved with regular radiating grooves, contrasts with the soft and almost abstract volumes of the folded stem, which naturally forms the himotoshi for the cord passage. The underside, carefully carved as well, reveals the attention given to every aspect of the object, a characteristic feature of high-quality netsuke. The deeply hollowed spiral at the center brings an almost organic and meditative dimension to the whole. The boxwood displays a superb old patina, warm and nuanced, enriched

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by darker tones within the recesses and a silky polish acquired through years of handling. The overall piece embodies the refined sobriety characteristic of Japanese Edo period art, where elegance arises more from the harmony of form and material than from overt demonstration.

Dimensions: Diameter: 3.5 cm Height: 3 cm

Gallery note This netsuke immediately appealed to us through its almost silent presence. While some netsuke seek narrative effect or technical virtuosity, this example instead seems rooted in a deeply Japanese sense of restraint. One finds here a sensibility close to the wabi aesthetic, where beauty emerges from simplicity of form, materials shaped by time, and an almost meditative balance. Everything here revolves around volume, touch, and discreet presence. The apparent simplicity of the subject gradually reveals a sculpture of great subtlety: the rhythm of the grooves, the softness of the curves, the polish of the aged boxwood, and the discreet spiral hidden beneath the object all give it a surprisingly contemporary presence. A modest subject, yet one of remarkable sculptural elegance.