



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Important Japanese Processional Group, Edo Period, References Metropolitan Museum New York



100 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 217

Height : 191

Depth : 80

Description

Rare Japanese sculptural group depicting two Oni carrying a ritual gong (dora) suspended from a long processional pole. Executed in carved, lacquered and polychromed wood, the ensemble retains its original carved wooden base, a feature that significantly enhances both its historical importance and collector appeal. For its quality of execution and striking visual impact, this work represents one of the most fascinating expressions of Japanese ritual and ceremonial sculpture. The two figures advance with powerful sculptural energy; the anatomical modelling demonstrates exceptional skill in the rendering of musculature, veins, wrinkles and facial expressions, giving the characters an almost tangible presence. In Japanese culture, Oni occupy a complex and fascinating role. They often serve a protective and

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Mobile : +39 347 062 3784

Via Francesca 20

Orzinuovi 25034

apotropaic function, associated with purification and the warding off of harmful influences. Their presence is documented in Buddhist rituals, religious processions and theatrical traditions, where they embody supernatural forces charged with protecting the human world. Groups of this type are extremely rare. A significant comparison may be drawn with a pair of gong-bearing Oni preserved in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, attributed to the Kyoto area and published by Sally B. Brown in *A Gift of Sound: The Crosby Brown Collection of Musical Instruments* (2018). The present example is distinguished by the survival of its original base and by the exceptional visual impact of the ensemble. Japan, Edo Period, 18th-19th century. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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