



Polychrome Noh And Kyogen Theater Mask Depicting The Character Usobuki, Japan, Yokohama, 19th

500 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : dimensions 13 cm x 16,8 cm

Description

Japanese theater mask made of polychrome wood depicting the face of the Kyogen theater character Usobuki* (or Usofuki) whistling, from Japan, with an old label bearing the inscription "Yokohama" on the back, dating from the late 19th century. This mask is in good overall condition. Labels on the back. Note: missing horsehair above the mouth, slight chips in the wood, some missing polychrome, signs of age, see photos. Kyogen is generally performed during intermissions in Noh plays. Unlike Noh, Kyogen is less formal and more closely tied to comedy and human nature. It is generally said that Kyogen acts as a safety valve for social and hierarchical tensions; its main purpose is to mock the depicted in Noh plays and in society at large.* Usobuki (or Usofuki) is the smallest of the characters representing the absurdity of the

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human condition at its helpless peak. His eyes look surprised, but he is unable to shout or roar; he can only whistle, discreetly, timidly, without consequence. Usofuki is therefore also used to represent insects and small animals. Hence, once again, the origins of its own name: "uso" meaning lie and "fuki" meaning to blow, to whistle. See Mingei Arts Gallery Dimensions Dimensions 13 cm x 16.8 cm G10 246 All photos are available at: www.antiques-delaval.com