



Antique Japanese Saga Ningyo Doll, Karako With Puppy, Kyoto, Early Edo, C17th



4 750 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Painted wood

Height : 26.5 cm

Description

This rare and charming carved wooden Saga Ningyo (????) depicts a smiling karako (Chinese boy) affectionately cradling a puppy, it dates to the 17th century, during the Early Edo period. Saga Ningyo are among the oldest and rarest forms of Japanese carved dolls. They originated in the Saga district of Kyoto during the early Edo period and were traditionally produced by sculptors associated with Buddhist workshops. Unlike later Japanese dolls made with textile costumes, Saga dolls were carved entirely from wood, with their garments formed as part of the sculpture before being finished with thick gofun (crushed oyster shell), urushi lacquer and rich gold decoration. Their sculptural quality places them somewhere between fine folk art and devotional carving. Comparable examples may be

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found in the collections of the Kyoto National Museum, whose online catalogue includes a number of Saga dolls illustrating the development of this distinctive Kyoto tradition: [Click here to view](#). An excellent overview of the history of Saga Ningyo, including their origins and methods of manufacture, is provided by the Saga Arashiyama Museum: [Click here to view](#). A particularly interesting comparison is the celebrated Boy with Bird Saga doll in the Peabody Essex Museum, attributed to the early 17th century, which demonstrates the same sculptural tradition of depicting children with animal companions: [Click here to view](#). The removable head is original to the body. The tongue has become detached over the centuries and is loose inside the head, but remains present. This does not affect the appearance of the doll. Condition is clearly shown in the photographs. A sympathetic conservation and professional clean would benefit this rare and important doll while preserving its remarkable originality. One of two closely related 17th-century Saga Ningyo that I currently have the pleasure of offering for sale. **SOLD WITH A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY** It is possible to pay in installments. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me 0678679716 or email tdixonfrance@yahoo.co.uk. Frais de port inclus pour la France. Shipping included in the price for FRANCE. Price does not include international shipping. Please contact me for a shipping quote. I am happy to combine shipping costs if you buy more than one item to save you money. Please note that I ship all items insured priority mail with tracking. I am an Englishman living down in the beautiful rural South of France and spend my days searching the little brocantes, flea markets, and shops for treasures. If you are forming a collection, I will be happy to advise you. Any questions will be answered promptly. We speak English and French. Nous parlons anglais et français. **MONEY BACK WITHOUT QUESTION IF I MISREPRESENT**

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