



Antique Japanese Saga Ningyo Doll With Karako Holding Puppy, Kyoto, Early Edo, C17th, 24cm



6 500 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Painted wood

Height : 24 cm

Description

This rare and charming Saga Ningyo (????) depicts a smiling karako (young Chinese boy) tenderly holding a puppy in his arms. It dates from the 17th century, at the beginning of the Edo period. Saga Ningyo are among the oldest and rarest of Japanese carved dolls. They originated in the Saga district of Kyoto at the beginning of the Edo period and were traditionally crafted by carvers from Buddhist workshops. Unlike later Japanese dolls, which are dressed in fabric, Saga Ningyo are entirely carved from wood, with their clothing forming an integral part of the sculpture before being covered with a thick layer of gofun (oyster shell powder), urushi lacquer, and rich gilded decorations. Their sculptural quality places them halfway between high-level folk art and devotional sculpture. The young boy wears a robe

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sumptuously decorated in deep red, green, black, and gold, adorned with rich floral and geometric motifs. The front of the garment is dominated by a magnificent ho-o (phoenix), a symbol of peace, prosperity, and imperial virtue. The puppy, delicately held close to him, is rendered with great character and tenderness, lending the entire composition a high degree of expressiveness. Comparable examples may be 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. The tongue has come loose over the centuries and is loose inside the head, but it is still present. This in no way affects the doll's appearance. The condition is clearly visible in the photographs. A respectful restoration and professional cleaning would benefit this rare and important doll, while preserving its authenticity. One of two similar 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 SOMETHING IN ANY WAY. I want YOU to be happy at the end of the day, so buy with confidence. I take a great deal of care packing -- I have a proven track record of selling high value, fragile items that arrive safely worldwide. Payment: Credit Cards via PayPal. Cheque or Bank transfer. Other payment methods are available, please ask.