



PROANTIC
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High Period Tsuba (bushu Ito Style) - Mumei - Forged Iron With Gold Inlays



820 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Description

HighPeriod Tsuba (Bushu Ito Style) - Mumei - Forged iron with gold inlays. This tsuba is much more than anaccessory: it is a work of art that bears witness to the end of the Samurai era.With its balance and the precision of its craftsmanship, it is aprime piece for any collector seeking to illustrate the transition fromwar sword to the art sword in the 19th century.Selling price, excludingshipping costs.ARTISTIC AND SYMBOLIC DESCRIPTION:This piece is amasterful illustration of the refinement of the artisans of the Bushu Ito school. Thecentral motif, composed of fans (Sensu) and an architectural element (stylizedroof), evokes a scene of summer contemplation, typical of theliterary aesthetic (Fuga) popular among samurai in the late Edo period.The contrast between thedark, robust

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patina of the iron and the delicate luster of the gold inlays lends this piece a understated elegance characteristic of prestigious fittings.

EXPERT ASSESSMENT AND COMPARISON: To confirm the attribution of this piece, we conducted in-depth comparative research with certified and documented examples from the Bushu Ito school. This comparative analysis revealed a strong stylistic identity: the distinctive use of negative space in the Sukashi technique, the finesse of the gold thread inlays (Ito-zogan), and the precision of the engraving work on the natural motifs correspond exactly to the reference works from this school in the 19th century. This correlation confirms the authenticity of the artisanal and technical approach of this guard.

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Materials:** Iron, with gold inlays
- Dimensions:** 7.5 cm x 7.2 cm.
- Weight:** 100 grams (perfectly balanced).
- Manufacturing technique:** Sukashi-tsuba (openwork craftsmanship). The cutout is hand-carved from a single sheet of iron, ensuring perfect mirror symmetry between the Omote (front) and Ura (back) sides.
- Ornamentation:** Features fine gold-wire inlays (Ito-zogan) forming scroll motifs, demonstrating a high level of goldsmithing skill.
- Condition:** Exceptional. The iron's natural patina is preserved, and the gold inlays show no major damage, a testament to the care and preservation over several centuries.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE BUSHU ITO SCHOOL

The work of the Bushu Ito School (Musashi Province) holds a prominent place in the history of Tosogu (sword fittings). Specialty : Renowned for its exceptional mastery of openwork ironwork, the school has evolved over the centuries toward a pursuit of finesse and naturalistic detail.

Aesthetics: Unlike the austere, warlike tsubas of previous centuries, the 19th-century Bushu Ito style emphasizes a balance between strength (forged iron) and delicacy (engraving and inlay work). The Mumei Aspect: Although unsigned (Mumei), the piece exhibits all the stylistic attributes that

attest to its production by the masters of this lineage. In the collectors' market, such a piece is valued for its technical integrity and historical authenticity.