



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Solid Copper Sukashi-style Wakizashi Tsuba - "water Dragon" Motif - Mumei - Late Edo Period



380 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Copper

Description

Solid Copper Wakizashi Tsuba - "Water Dragon"
Design - Mumei This is a collector's item that was part of a high-quality set, combining the technical expertise of a custom fit (tailored to the blade's grooves) with evident artistic mastery. Due to its size, substantial weight, and iconographic theme, this tsuba is representative of the refinement of wakizashi mountings from the late Samurai era. It is ideal for a collector seeking to complete a period set or to enrich a collection of authentic Japanese art objects.

DESCRIPTION: Period: 18th century (late Edo period / early Meiji era) Material: Solid copper (Suaka) with a beautiful natural patina. Technique: Sukashi (openwork) with high-relief carving (Taka-bori) SPECIFICATIONS: Dimensions: 6.7

Dealer

L'Atelier du Sabre Japonais

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Member Japon

Mobile : +33 (0) 7-61-13-87-08

Saint-Doulchard 18230

cm x 7.2 cm Weight: 107 grams Mounting profile: Nakago-ana (central opening) hand-fitted for a Hira-zukuri-style blade (or similar), with specific carved grooves for the grooves (Hi / Bo-hi). The fit to the grooves (hi) corresponds to a "prestigious mounting." This tsuba was part of a high-quality set. Signature : Mumei (unsigned). In the art of the tsuba, the absence of a signature on high-quality pieces is very common, as priority is given to artistic expression and the precision of the technical fit to the blade. This tsuba is valued for the evident mastery of its high-relief chiseling and the quality of its solid copper alloy.

ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION: This tsuba features remarkable chiseling, depicting a dragon (Ryu) moving powerfully amidst stylized wave scrolls. Subject: The "Water Dragon," a mythical creature associated with protection and mastery of the elements. The design utilizes openwork (Sukashi) to create an effect of lightness and dynamic movement, typical of traditional Japanese aesthetics. Sculpture: The details are exceptionally fine: the scales on the body, the dragon's facial expression, and the fluidity of the claws are evidence of an expert craftsman's hand. The prominent relief (Taka-bori) offers a striking contrast with the openwork areas of the guard, accentuating the relief through a natural interplay of light and shadow. Material and Patina: Crafted from solid copper (Suaka), the piece features a deep, uniform antique patina that has developed naturally over more than a century. The texture is warm to the touch and attests to its indisputable historical authenticity.

CONDITION: Martial Fit: The central opening (Nakago-ana) shows signs of ancient hand-filing and a uniform interior patina, confirming that it was custom-fitted for a prestigious blade. Technical Continuity: The presence of carved grooves (Hi) within the guard itself underscores that this is an integral component of a historic, high-caliber mount. Integrity: The piece shows no structural defects. The carved details are sharp, and the

historical patina is well-preserved.