



"kaeru" Toad, Japan

4 900 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 54cm

Height : 22cm

Description

Very large "kaeru" toad made of Japanese cryptomeria ("suji") from Japan, late 19th century to early 20th century. It is signed, but we cannot make out the signature. Its head is slightly turned, which distinguishes it from more traditional toads. Its eyes are made of gold-colored glass paste. It is very large, measuring 54 cm by 22 cm in height. A wonderful example of how Japanese sculpture works with the material rather than against it: the flowing lines of the suji become the living skin of the toad, blurring the boundary between the living and the sculpted. In Japanese, kaeru has several main meanings: the frog (?), the verb to return (??), and the verb to change (???).
[1] Main meanings: Frog (?): A symbol of good luck, safe travel, and money coming back (slipped into your wallet). To return (??): The act

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of returning home. To change (???): The act of modifying or transforming something

Cryptomeria wood, known for its fine grain, lightness, durability, and warm reddish-brown color. : Often carved as an okimono (a decorative object placed on a stand), highlighting the wood's natural texture to mimic the amphibian's warty skin.