



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Japanese Surimono Print By Matora: The Courtesan Yugiri Reading



190 EUR

Signature : MATORA OISHI (1792-1833)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 185 mm

Height : 205 mm

Description

Surimono with gold highlights, Shikishiban, Nishiki-eca. 1880. Edmond de Goncourt defined them as follows: "The surimono [...], these images which, through the silkiness of the paper, the quality of the colors, the care taken in the printing, and the gold and silver highlights, and furthermore through the addition of embossing [...] --these images have no equivalent in the engravings of any other people on earth." Unlike prints produced by publishers for the general public, surimono prints are private, non-commercial commissions, printed in very small numbers. These prints were often commissioned by literary circles and other groups for special occasions: invitations, New Year's, commemorations, new theatrical productions, etc. Surimono were created for and addressed to an

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urban bourgeois elite, passionate about literature, navigating between classical culture and contemporary entertainment. Free from commercial constraints, these surimono are characterized by luxurious prints, using rare metallic pigments and refined printing techniques: embossing, paper polishing, and lacquering. The artist enjoys great freedom of expression and artistic interpretation. The value of the surimono lies in the dual semantic complexity of the poems and the image. (See: SURIMONO, Treasures of Japanese Print Art, co-published by the Jerzy Leskiewicz Foundation / In Fine Éditions d'Art--with the support of the Sasakawa Franco-Japanese Foundation, 2019)