



PROANTIC
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Japanese Bronze Vase By Takahashi Kaishu



550 EUR

Signature : Takahashi Kaishu (????, 1905-2004)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Height : 26 cm

Description

This bronze vase was created by Takahashi Kaishu (????, 1905-2004)--the artist name of Takahashi Isamu (???)--and dates from the Showa era, around 1950. Standing 26 cm tall, it features a slender cylindrical shape that tapers slightly toward the top, with a subtly rounded base and an understated neck, giving the object an architectural presence imbued with serenity. Its deep brown patina emphasizes the simplicity of the piece, while two circular medallions of inlaid metal, arranged asymmetrically on the body of the vase, break up the uniformity of the surface. Crafted using the Kaga Zogan (????) technique, these inlays provide a precise geometric counterpoint to the otherwise unadorned bronze surface. Kaga Zogan is a traditional art of metal inlay associated with the city of Kanazawa; it

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combines techniques such as Hira Zogan (平造, flat inlay) and Ito Zogan (糸造, thread inlay), often used together to create decorative effects of great finesse. This tradition developed in the Kaga domain during the early Edo period, when Maeda Toshinaga (前田 利長, 1562-1614), the second lord of Kaga, invited a metalworker from the Goto family of Kyoto to introduce and develop these ornamental techniques in Kanazawa. Kaishu carried on this tradition while adapting it to the clean lines and aesthetic of modern Japanese metalwork. Born in Kanazawa in 1905, he graduated from the Tokyo School of Fine Arts in 1929; that same year, he was selected to exhibit at the Teiten (帝展), the official exhibition of the Imperial Academy of Arts. His works were subsequently exhibited internationally, notably at the 1930 World's Fair in Belgium, where he received an award, and at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, where he won a gold medal. After World War II, he continued his artistic career and his exhibitions, developing a style that combined traditional Kaga techniques with modern sculptural forms and skillfully executed decoration. In 1982, he was designated an "Important Intangible Cultural Property"--a title commonly known as "Living National Treasure" (Ningen Kokuho)--in recognition of his mastery of Kaga metalwork. Another work by Kaishu is included in the collections of the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum and is illustrated in the book **The Art of Ishikawa** (plate 288). This vase is accompanied by its original **tomobako** (wooden storage box), which confirms its attribution. The work presented here reflects Kaishu's approach to metalwork, emphasizing proportions, material, and surface treatment; the sparse metallic inlays add a subtle decorative touch to an otherwise understated composition.