



Mikawachi Hirado, Dragon-headed Ship-shaped Vase, C. 1890-1910

600 EUR

Signature : Hirado

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Porcelain

Length : 39 cm

Width : 14 cm

Height : 17 cm



Description

A large Japanese piece of white porcelain with cobalt blue underglaze decoration, produced at the Mikawachi kilns in the former Hirado domain around 1890-1910, during the late Meiji period. The Mikawachi kilns developed under the patronage of the Matsura clan, the daimyo lords of Hirado. They became the domain's official kilns in 1637, and the production of white porcelain began around 1640. The quality of their porcelain and craftsmanship earned Hirado's production international recognition. The vase is modeled after a Takarabune, a treasure ship or dragon boat. In Japanese folklore, the Takarabune carries the Seven Deities of Good Fortune and their treasures during the first days of the New Year, bringing prosperity, protection, and good fortune. The bow is topped by a scaly dragon's

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head with an open, hollow mouth and a white tongue made of separately molded porcelain. The bow platform is painted with a bat and a Buddhist endless knot. The deep, oval central basin bears takaramono--precious objects of good omen--including a magic mallet, a scroll, a treasure bag, and other symbolic motifs. The stern platform is decorated with a phoenix amid stylized clouds, above a spiral frieze. The hull is painted with foaming waves and birds in flight. The unmarked underside features a wide, unglazed oval base ring surrounding a glazed central section. Dimensions Weight: 1,716 g; Height: 17 cm; Length: 39 cm; Width: 14 cm Condition Overall excellent antique condition. The upper part of the dragon's head has undergone a professional restoration in the past. The separately cast tongue inside the mouth is intact. Please examine the attached photographs carefully, as they are an integral part of this description. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them. The item will be shipped with full tracking and insurance.