



Shishi-mai Mask - Meiji Period (1868-1912).



1 450 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 46 cm.

Height : 37 cm.

Depth : 23 cm.

Description

Japan - Meiji Period (1868-1912). Large shishi mask carved from monoxide wood and lacquered red, with gilded eyes and teeth, and black-lacquered lips, eyebrows, and ears. The lower jaw is hinged, and the ears are removable and attached by pegs. Dimensions: 37 x 46 x 23 cm. Sold with its custom-made base. Dimensions with base: 54.5 x 46 x 23 cm. Notes: Japan has a long tradition of lion dance, known as Shishi-mai (???). Although it likely originated in India and is now widespread in many Asian countries, it is believed to have been introduced to Japan from China during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). In Chinese culture, lions already symbolized protection and power. The Japanese adapted this dance to incorporate it into their own spiritual traditions, particularly Shinto. Now fully

Dealer

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4 allée de pomone

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integrated into Japanese culture, the dance is frequently performed at Shinto shrines during the New Year to purify, protect, and bring good luck. The dancers are accompanied by flutes and drums (taiko). The mask's articulated jaw is a key feature that allows the dancer to snap the lion's mouth shut--a gesture considered apotropaic (warding off evil spirits). The lion is a guardian and protector; it drives away demons and purifies the surroundings. During the Shishi-mai, the act of the lion "biting" a child's head is believed to bring health and good fortune.