

SA1078599

Striking Japanese Meiji (early 20thC) Bronze Temple Lion & Peony (Shishi-Botan) Okimono

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1078599****Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 22.5 cm (8.9")

Width = 26.5 cm (10.4")

Depth = 17 cm (6.7")

Description

Superb Japanese Meiji (early 20thC) bronze okimono of an exceptional detailed temple lion (shishi) holding a large blooming peony (botan) in its mouth. Standing in a playful pose, its front body rests on the ground while standing with its hind legs, holding its tail erect. The hairs of its mane and tail are the hairs are delicately designed in wavy lines. Signed on its belly (Yamaguchi) 'Shōun'. Measures 26.5cm wide x 17cm deep x 22.5cm high, weight 3.25kg. Excellent original condition and lovely patina. Shishi-botan, literally lion and peony, has been a very popular motif in Japan. Shishi was believed as the king of all animals, while peony are considered the 'king' of flowers. They have often been depicted together since ancient times. It was said that only one thing that could kill the strongest animal (shishi) was an insect in his body and it was believed that the night dew of peony was the only thing that can kill this insect.

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