

SA1142962

**Rare Chinese Zoomorphic
Stoneware Jar – Bird-Head Lid
– Southern Kilns, Qing Dynasty
c.1850–1890**

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1142962****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Description

An exceptional Chinese stoneware jar with original bird-head lid, dating to the Tongzhi–Guangxu period (mid-to-late 19th century). Made in the Guangdong or Jiangxi region, this jar exemplifies the refined folk tradition of Southern Qing ceramics. The jar is of rounded ovoid form with a short neck and applied lug handles, covered in a warm ochre-toned high-fired glaze exhibiting deep, stable craquelure from natural oxidation. The glaze continues into the interior and underside, with clear firing scars from a traditional three-point support. The lid is modelled in the form of a stylised bird's head with incised feather motifs, evoking ritual zoomorphic forms of earlier Chinese dynasties. Freehand iron-oxide brushwork decorates the surface with scrolling foliage and a seated Daoist figure holding a fan – a motif commonly seen in provincial Qing ceramic iconography. The entire surface exhibits signs of age and usage, including authentic glaze contraction, mineral staining inside the rim, and firing tension along one handle. No restorations, no cracks. Original lid with perfect fit. Provenance: from a European private collection, acquired mid-20th century. Dimensions: hei...

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