

SA1145782

A Fine Pair of Satsuma Vases
with Shimazu Crest, Japan, Late
Meiji-Taisho Period (c.
1910-1920)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1145782

Date of manufacture: 1910

Description

An exceptionally decorative and finely executed pair of Japanese Satsuma earthenware vases, each of elongated baluster form with elaborate applied dragon handles and a wide flaring neck. Both vases are profusely hand-painted in polychrome enamels and richly adorned with raised moriage gilt, depicting detailed scenes of arhats (rakan) — enlightened Buddhist disciples — among clouds, stylized dragons, and intricate landscape motifs. The lavish application of gold, coupled with intricate narrative scenes, demonstrates the high technical and artistic standards of Kyoto studio Satsuma from the early 20th century. Each shoulder is set with a finely modeled gilt dragon handle, while the neck is emblazoned with the cross-in-circle Shimazu crest, the historic mon of the Satsuma domain, symbolizing the region's rich ceramic heritage. The bases bear different hand-painted gilt marks: one vase signed 'Ryuzan' (??), the other with a closely related studio mark, indicating production by reputable Kyoto workshops for both domestic and export markets during the late Meiji to early Taisho period. Vases of this quality and scale, particularly as a matching pair, are increasingly sought-a...

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