

SA1177292

Japanese Hirado Porcelain Karashishi (Guardian Lion Dog), Edo–Meiji Period, c.1840–1880

Price

GBP 1,200

| USD \$1,624 | EUR 1,404

Item Reference: SA1177292**Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 10 cm (3.9")

Width = 7.5 cm (3.0")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

A finely modelled Japanese Hirado porcelain karashishi (guardian lion-dog), dating to the late Edo to early Meiji period, c.1840–1880. The figure is seated with the head turned slightly to one side, displaying the alert, animated expression characteristic of the Hirado sculptural school. The ribcage, limbs, and muzzle are crisply defined, and the mane, brows, and tail are decorated with the distinctive underglaze cobalt spiral curls associated with the Mikawachi kilns. Made from Amakusa kaolin, the porcelain body is of fine, dense white clay with a soft bluish tone beneath a clear glaze. The tail is formed as a stylised plume with blue detailing, and the base is left unglazed, exactly as seen on authenticated Hirado figures of this date. The restrained blue-and-white palette reflects the refined aesthetic sought by the Hirado domain for presentation wares and high-status display. A representative example of the elegant and precise workmanship that made Hirado porcelain highly regarded among samurai households and later Western collectors. Comparable examples can be found in the British Museum and the Kyushu Ceramic Museum collections. Historical Background The Hirado k...

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