

SA1187067

Kyoto Satsuma Koro with
Shi-Shi Lion, Meiji c.1895,
Museum Quality

Price

GBP 2,500

| USD \$3,383 | EUR 2,925

Item Reference: SA1187067

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Description

A magnificent Kyoto Satsuma ware incense burner (koro), anonymous studio, possibly Seikozan or a workshop in his circle, Meiji period, circa 1895. This piece was not intended for export, but produced for the domestic Japanese market — a distinction that typically means significantly higher quality in all aspects of craftsmanship, painting and finish. The form is a classic koro on three feet, with twin upright handles and a pierced lid crowned by a finely modelled shi-shi (guardian lion). The lion is not a casual decorative detail, but a carefully sculpted, fully three-dimensional miniature sculpture with intricate detailing and gold highlights. The pierced lid confirms this is a functioning incense burner, not merely a decorative object. The body is decorated with complex genre scenes — samurai in combat and courtly assemblies — all rendered in the finest moriage technique with polychrome enamel and lavish use of gold. The surface remains fully intact, with no wear to paint or gilding. There is a minor firing stress line to one foot, typical of earlier Satsuma wares, and a tiny loss to one tail feather of the shi-shi — both extremely minor and noted for accuracy. Unsi...

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