

SA1202909

A Monumental and Unique Pair of Meiji Period Seto Porcelain Vases by Kato Sanhei on Matching Original Porcelain Stands

Price

GBP 4,000

| USD \$5,413 | EUR 4,680

Item Reference: SA1202909**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 39.5 cm (15.6")

Width = 18 cm (7.1")

Depth = 16.5 cm (6.5")

Description

This extraordinary pair of vases represents a pinnacle of Japanese ceramic engineering from the Golden Age of the Meiji period (1868–1912). Executed by the legendary Seto master Kato Sanhei, these works are not merely decorative objects but significant sculptural achievements that demonstrate the technical virtuosity required for the great International Exhibitions of the 19th century. Kato Sanhei was a titan of the Seto ceramic guild, a visionary artist whose work was frequently chosen to represent the Japanese Empire's aesthetic sophistication on the global stage, including the landmark expositions in Philadelphia and Paris. The vases are conceived in a remarkably rare and complex form, modeled as traditional tied auspicious sacks. In Japanese culture, this fukuro shape is deeply symbolic, representing Hotei's bag of treasures and serving as a profound emblem of abundance, wealth, and overflowing prosperity. To achieve such a convoluted, organic form in high-fired porcelain is a feat of immense difficulty, as the risk of warping or collapsing in the kiln is extreme. The entire body of each vase is meticulously hand-textured with a Seigaiha (blue sea wave) pattern. Thi...

Internal Ref: B1663

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