

SA1209265

Sumida Gawa Stoneware Vase with Applied Rakan Figure, Signed Ryōsai, Meiji–Taishō Period

Price

GBP 200

| USD \$270 | EUR 234

Item Reference: SA1209265**Date of manufacture: 1910**

Description

A hand-thrown Sumida ware (埴手 / Sumida-gawa) trumpet vase of gu form, Japan, late Meiji to early Taishō period, c. 1900–1920, signed Ryōsai and attributed to the workshop of Inoue Ryōsai (埴手屋). A buff stoneware body of the paler Sumida variant, left largely unglazed to display the heavily ribbed, wheel-thrown surface – the pronounced throwing rings running across the waisted cylindrical body and the stepped, flaring foot. The flared trumpet mouth and upper body are covered in a lustrous aubergine-black treacle glaze that pools at the rim and drips irregularly down over the pale body in tongues and runs, thinning in places to reveal amber, olive and blue-grey streaks – the flambé effect characteristic of the workshop. The applied decoration is separately modeled and glazed in porcelainous white, iron-brown and cobalt underglaze blue, attached to the body before the final firing. A rakan (Buddhist arhat, 阿罗汉), bald and finely wrinkled, is shown seated on olive-glazed craggy rockwork at the front of the vase, wrapped in flowing russet-brown robes with a pale cowl falling behind one shoulder. He holds aloft a dark spherical hōju (宝珠), the wish-granting jewel, his expressio...

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