

SA1211996

Japanese Kutani figure of Jurojin, God of Longevity, Meiji period c. 1880–1910

Price

GBP 400

| USD \$541 | EUR 468

Item Reference: SA1211996**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 21 cm (8.3")

Width = 16 cm (6.3")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

A substantial Japanese Kutani porcelain figure of Jurojin, dating to the Meiji period, circa 1880–1910. Modelled as the seated God of Longevity holding his staff, this impressive cabinet figure combines auspicious symbolism with the richly decorative character that defined late Kutani production. The figure is executed in the classic late Kutani manner with dense overglaze enamels, extensive raised moriage enamel and heavy hand-applied gilding. Rich brocade-like ornament in iron-red, cobalt blue, green and gilt covers the ceremonial robes, while the finely painted face, white brows and flowing beard create a striking focal point. Jurojin, one of the Seven Lucky Gods, symbolised wisdom, immortality and long life. His image, derived from the Chinese deity Shouxing, made him an especially powerful symbol of blessing, longevity and cultivated wisdom. We particularly draw attention to the remarkable face of this figure. This is far more than a merely decorative object; the modeller seems to have infused it with real life, capturing not simply an abstract deity but the deeply human presence of a once-living man, rendered with remarkable individuality, wisdom and character, a...

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Seller Details

Ritas Bazaar

Hertfordshire United Kingdom



Tel: 07434 626011

International Tel: +44 7434 626011