

SA999542

19th Century Burr Root Carving

Price

GBP 1,800

| USD \$2,431 | EUR 2,106

Item Reference: SA999542

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 170.2 cm (67.0")

Width = 116.8 cm (46.0")

Depth = 68.6 cm (27.0")

Description

19th Century Large Scale Chinese Burr Root Wood Carving. This fascinating large hand carved figure stands almost 70 inches in height. Made in 5 sections that fit together and weighting close to 40kg, this highly decorative piece of art is a real statement piece. Depicting a holy man balancing on one leg, holding what resembles some fruit in his left hand and a drinking vessel in the other. The regalia of the burr wood covers his robe perfectly with elegance and grace. To his left a disciple of sorts stands holding a small drinking vessel. To his right a bird which resembles a crane also stood on one leg. We have seen a few examples similar in style in years past, but nothing so large as this one. The burr develops on a trunk or root from the thwarted development of a bud which in turn gives rise to the swirls in the grain which look like water rushing around rocks in a raging river; described by one Chinese scholar as follows, "When it is cut, within it there are the forms of mountains and streams, flowers and trees". Root carving is a traditional art in China. Integrating ingenuity and craftiness, root carving not only employs ways of expressions similar to wood carvi...

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