Finch & Co



SIX JAPANESE BACHI OF CARVED IVORY, WHALEBONE, TORTOISESHELL AND ROSEWOOD

A COLLECTION OF SIX JAPANESE BACHI OF CARVED IVORY, WHALEBONE, TORTOISESHELL AND ROSEWOOD
OLD SMOOTH SILKY PATINA
19TH CENTURY
SIZES: 25.5CM LONG – 10 INS LONG (MAX) / 19.5CM LONG – 7¾ INS LONG (MIN)

LITERATURE

JAPANESE BACHI ARE REFINED PLECTRUM THAT HAVE BEEN USED TO PLAY A TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CALLED THE SAMSIEN SINCE THE 16TH CENTURY. IT IS ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST POPULAR CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND RESEMBLES A THREE-STRINGED, PLUCKED LUTE. IT IS THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT OF THE KABUKI THEATRE AND IS FREQUENTLY USED AS AN ACCOMPANIMENT BY GEISHA TO SONGS. CARVED IN IMITATION OF A GINKO TREE LEAF, THE BACHI STRIKES THE STRING ON THE SAMSIEN JUST BELOW THE POSITION WHERE THE NECK JOINS THE BODY OF THE INSTRUMENT.