Finch & Co



JAPANESE LACQUERED ANTIMONY NATURALISTIC OKIMONO OF A HUMAN SKULL

A JAPANESE LACQUERED ANTIMONY NATURALISTIC OKIMONO OF A HUMAN SKULL WITH TRACES OF GILDING, A SEAL MARK TO THE BASE

MEIJI PERIOD (1868-1912)

SIZE: 5CM HIGH, 6.5CM DEEP, 4.5CM WIDE – 2 INS HIGH, 2½ INS DEEP, 1¾ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY OF THE IMPERMANENCE OF LIFE AND THE NON-EXISTENCE OF SELF WERE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JAPANESE SAMURAI TRADITIONS OF SELF-SACRIFICE AND THE ETHICALITY OF SUICIDE. THE SYMBOL OF THE 'MEMENTO MORI', THE HUMAN SKULL, WAS FOR THEM AN ALLEGORY FOR THE VANITY OF LIFE.