Finch & Co



JAPANESE CARVED IVORY SKULL WITH AN ARTICULATED HINGED LOWER JAW

A JAPANESE CARVED IVORY SKULL WITH AN ARTICULATED HINGED LOWER JAW 'MEMENTO MORI'
SIGNED; YOSHIKAZU
MEIJI PERIOD – LATE 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 4CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 4CM DEEP – 1½ INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE GHOSTS IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY AND SPIRIT STORIES ARE ALWAYS REPRESENTED AS SKELETONS OR SKULLS AND IT IS BELIEVED IN JAPAN THAT A SPIRIT, EVEN IF THE INDIVIDUAL'S DEATH IS A PEACEFUL AND NATURAL ONE, LINGERS IN ITS LIFETIME ABODE FOR AS LONG AS THIRTY-THREE YEARS.