Finch & Co



A RARE AND UNUSUAL 'FUR' MENPO 'SHOKUMO'

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IRON, FUR (HARE) MATERIAL, WHISKERS, LACQUER

JAPAN

MID EDO PERIOD / 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 25CM HIGH, 20CM WIDE, 13CM DEEP - 9¾ INS HIGH, 8 INS WIDE, 5¼ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

THE WHOLE SURFACE IS COVERED WITH FUR (HARE). THE COVERING OF 'FUR' WAS TO IMPRESS THE ENEMY, ALTHOUGH SOME PROTECTION FROM RAIN COULD BE ACHIEVED. THE USE OF 'HARE' FUR IS SYMBOLIC IN JAPAN, BEING ONE OF THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC, AND ALSO A CREATURE WHICH EMBODIES PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS THE 'PHILOSOPHY' OF JAPAN. THE HARE TOOK ON MANY 'STYLISTIC' REPRESENTATIONS AMONG THE SAMURAI WARRIOR.

AN EXAMPLE IN THE ARMAN COLLECTION, AND A 'KABUTO' COVERED WITH SIMILAR FUR ARE IN THE OSAKA CASTLE MUSEUM

PROVENANCE

GIUSEPPE PIVA, MILANO, ITALY

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION