

*Finch & C°*



**A RARE HINOKI MASK OF 'JA'**

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PAINTED WITH AN EARTHEN RED POLYCHROME OVER GESSO, WITH FINE SPARSE HAIR, THE CHEEKS WITH DISTINCTIVE V-SHAPED MARKINGS, SUGGESTIVE OF DRAGON'S WHISKERS, THE EYE BALLS IN INSET GILT COPPER

WOOD, GESSO, METAL, GILT, PIGMENT

JAPAN

EDO PERIOD / 17TH TO 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 26CM HIGH - 10½ INS HIGH

INK INSCRIPTION ON THE REVERSE: "NAKABASHICHŌ TENYA JŪBEI"

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**LITERATURE**

IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS MASK WAS NOT INTENDED FOR THEATRICAL PURPOSES, BUT RATHER AS A TEMPLE OFFERING. THE INSCRIPTION APPEARS TO REFER TO A SPECIFIC LOCATION (NAKABASHICHŌ) AND AN INDIVIDUAL OR DONOR (TENYA JŪBEI).

**PROVENANCE**

AU BON MARCHE, PARIS, (LABEL FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

EX PRIVATE FRENCH COLLECTION

EX IRISH COLLECTION