



Fine Japanese Art (JAP0621)

Fri, 4th Jun 2021

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 25 May to 4 June, 2021. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the preview will be open from 10 AM to 1 PM. FFP2 masks are required.

Lot 120

Starting price: €400

Estimate: €800

GYOSUI: A LACQUERED WOOD GIGAKU MASK OF KARURA (GARUDA)

By Gyosui, signed Gyosui with seal
Japan, early 20th century

Finely carved and colored in gold, red, and black as a Karura showing a fierce expression with large bulging eyes, bold furrowed brows, the beak holding a gold pearl and showing a scowl. The interior with a paper label reading Kokuho mo, gigaku-men, Todai-ji, Karura-men, Gyosui saku ('A mask of Karura, made by GYOSUI [the seal also reading Gyosui], copied from the original at Todai-ji Temple [in Nara]'). The artist was a pupil of Kano Tessai (1845-1925).

The Karura is a divine hybrid human-bird creature based on the Garuda (the name is a transliteration) and one of the stock character masks worn by performers of the ancient Japanese courtly dance art of gigaku.

HEIGHT 31.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor and mostly intentional wear, few natural age cracks.

Provenance: British private collection.

Literature comparison:

Compare a similar mask, possibly the original, transmitted by the Todai-ji temple and currently in the collection of the Miho Museum, accession number H-39.1.