



Fine Japanese Art (JAP1221)

Fri, 3rd Dec 2021

Lot 27

Starting price: €2500

Estimate: €5000

MITSUTA HARUO: A SUPERB BRONZE AND SILVER JIZAI (ARTICULATED) OKIMONO OF A HERMIT CRAB

By Mitsuta Haruo (born 1980), sealed Mitsuta Haruo Japan

Depicting a hermit crab (Okayadokari, Coenobita), the naturalistically cast bronze shell with a gold-splashed design, the entirely articulated silver crab can be completely retracted within its shell. Sealed MITSUTA HARUO in a small circular cartouche and with the original sealed wood box.

LENGTH (completely extended) 6 cm

WEIGHT 49 g

Condition: Excellent condition.

Provenance: French private collection.

Mitsuta Haruo (b. 1980) was born in Yonago, Japan. He has won several awards, including the Grand Prize of "The 2nd Art Plaza Grand Prize – Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music" in 2007. Mitsuta Haruo produces metal sculptures of insects, crustaceans, and other "creepy-crawlies" with obsessively detailed and extraordinarily lifelike precision. His inspiration is jizai okimono, a jointed, moveable metal sculpture invented in Japan in the 1700s that emphasizes careful attention to realistic detail.

Auction comparison:

A closely related work by the artist, also depicting a hermit crab, was sold at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 16 March 2021, New York, lot 31 (**sold for 7,500 USD**).