



## Fine Japanese Art (JAP1222)

2nd Dec, 2022

### Viewing:

21 November - 1 December

10 AM - 6 PM, and by appointment

2 December

10 AM - 1 PM

## Lot 47

**Starting price:** €2000

**Estimate:** €4000

### AN EXCEPTIONALLY RARE INLAID IRON MINIATURE KODANSU (CABINET) WITH TURTLES AND CRANES

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly decorated in gold and silver takazogan and hirazogan, the hinged door and short sides with 'floating' turtles framed by a stream and aquatic plants below and thin clouds above, the cover with two cranes flying in the sky as well as the setting sun and further clouds, the cover with a fitted gilt silver handle and the door with a silver knob, opening to reveal three silver drawers with iron front panels with silver-mounted handles and inlaid in the same manner as the exterior with turtles and carved with water currents, the interior of the door with a gold plate engraved with a man surrounded by ducks in a barren forest.

SIZE 9.6 x 9.3 x 6.4 cm

WEIGHT 851.5 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and casting irregularities.

Provenance: French private collection.

While miniature kodansu (display cabinets) were commonly made during the Meiji period, the most popular examples crafted from lacquer, inlaid ivory, or damascened iron, **no comparable examples in sparsely inlaid iron are recorded in private or public collections, making this exceptionally well-crafted piece extremely rare.**