



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 265

Starting price: €4000

Estimate: €8000

MORI SOSEN: A LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE SCROLL PAINTING OF MONKEYS BY A WATERFALL

By Mori Sosen (1747-1821), signed Sosen with seal Morikata Japan, late 18th to early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in ink and watercolors on silk and mounted as a hanging scroll with silk brocade frame, the circular image within a rectangular field, depicting a tribe of monkeys in a rocky landscape with blossoming cherry trees and a waterfall, the monkeys engaged in various activities such as climbing, fighting, grooming, eating, and resting. Note the single white-haired monkey near the center of the image, which is almost hidden due to the similarly colored background. The rectangular field with the signature SOSEN and seal Morikata lower right.

With an old wood hakogaki (storage box) with an attached label: 群猿之圖、森狙山筆 “Gun'en no zu, Mori Sosen hitsu” [A painting of a group of monkeys, painted by Mori Sosen] A further label to the side: 狙山筆、円相、郡猿圖 “Sosen hitsu, Enso, Gun'en-zu” [A painting of a group of monkeys, as the Enso (The Circle), painted by Sosen]

With a large black lacquered wood box.

SIZE 89 x 86.5 cm (image) and 190 x 103.5 cm (incl. mounting)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, little soiling, few creases. The mounting with some wear, traces of use, tears, and few loose threads. The tomobako with extensive wear, cracks, and minor losses. The black-lacquered wood box with some wear, minor nicks, and light scratches.

Provenance: Collection of Frieda and Milton Rosenthal, acquired from Shukodo, Kyoto. Sotheby's Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Including Chinese and Japanese Art from the Collection of Frieda and Milton Rosenthal, 16 September 2008, lot 293. US private collection, acquired from the above.

Auction comparison:

Compare a related painting by Mori Sosen depicting two monkeys and their young, but of considerably smaller size, at Christie's, Lacquer, Jade, Bronze, Ink: The Irving Collection Day Sale, 21 March 2019, New York, lot 1162 (**sold for 15,000 USD**).