

Japanese lacquer box

£95



REF: 7041

Height: 7 cm (2.8")

Width: 36 cm (14.2")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A 19th century Japanese lacquer box with decorated lid and ornate brass catch, circa 1870.

Japanese lacquer, known as urushi, is a traditional craft with over 9,000 years of history. Derived from the sap of the lacquer tree, it is applied in multiple thin layers to wood, bamboo, or ceramic surfaces, creating a durable, glossy finish.

The process is meticulous, requiring careful drying in humid conditions and polishing between coats. Artisans often decorate lacquer ware with techniques like maki-e - sprinkling gold or silver powder - or inlaying shells.