

Pair of Meiji bronze crayfish

£425



REF: 7729

Height: 10 cm (3.9")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 20 cm (7.9")

Description

A pair of Japanese Meiji period bronze crayfish sculptures, circa 1890.

Japanese bronze crayfish sculptures of the Meiji period (1868-1912) demonstrate the extraordinary naturalism and technical skill of the era's metalworkers.

Unlike the celebrated articulated jizai okimono, unarticulated examples are cast in a fixed position, yet can be remarkably lifelike. The segmented shell, prominent claws, antennae and numerous legs were carefully modelled, often enhanced by finely chased surface detail and a rich brown or reddish patina.

Produced primarily as decorative okimono for the domestic and export markets, these bronzes reflect the Meiji fascination with closely observed natural forms. Well-modelled examples remain highly appealing to collectors of Japanese metalwork.