Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th-Century Chinese Bronze Temple Gong and Striker

£295

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REF: 2899

Description

A beautifully patinated 18th-century Chinese bronze temple gong, offered with its elegant flower-head striker. Quietly powerful in form and rich in surface character, this evocative ceremonial object combines the elemental simplicity of a circular bronze gong with the refined detail of its finely modelled beater.

The gong is of gently dished circular form, with a raised central boss designed to receive the strike. Its dark bronze surface has developed a deep, varied patina over time, with softly shifting tones that reveal the age, handling, and long history of the metal. The raised centre provides a strong visual focus and would have helped produce the clear, resonant tone for which such instruments were valued.

Accompanying the gong is a slender handled striker, terminating in a delicately formed flower-head. This graceful detail offers a beautiful contrast to the gong's austere circular form, transforming a functional accessory into an object of decorative refinement in its own right.

Gongs played an important role in Chinese Buddhist and Daoist temple life, where they were sounded to announce ceremonies, accompany chanting, mark ritual moments, and call worshippers to attention. The resonance of the instrument was central to the atmosphere of the temple, carrying across courtyards and through ceremonial spaces.

Today, this gong and striker make a striking decorative ensemble, equally suited to display on a stand, wall, or table. A rare and atmospheric piece of Chinese religious art, it would bring depth, history, and a sense of calm to an interior or collection of Asian works of art.

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