

Asian and Islamic Ceramics and Works of Art / Tuesday, 23rd June 2020 / Lot 1100



## LOT 1100

An exceptional Japanese documentary and dated Satsuma earthenware circular dish, Meiji period, finely painted by Sozan for the Kinkozan workshop, with two bijin in conversation beneath a pine tree, with a young girl at their side, before a riverside scene, the far shore with children at play and flying a kite, Mount Fuji just visible on the horizon, all framed by a repeated ho-o lozenge brocade rim, the scene bearing gilt artist's signature and red seal, the reverse bearing a dedication 'With Compliments to Mr & Mrs T.O. Rust from S. Kinkozan', above a gilt and iron red signature seal for Kinkozan and dated in gilt '1909', diameter 40.6cm. Note: Sozan was the principal painter at the Kinkozan workshop and widely regarded as Kinkozan's finest artist. The exquisite decoration to this dish displays the two conversing bijin engaging in a game of hanetsuki (a traditional Japanese New Year's game similar to badminton without a net), each holding a wooden paddle called a hagoita, finely painted with a portrait, while the young girl at their side appears to retrieve the ball or shuttle. Footnote: for an example of Sozan's fine work see pages 192 to 196 of Louis Lawrence's 'Satsuma', 1991, for illustrations of a box and cover in the form a miniature robe chest which was donated to the Victorian & Albert Museum in 1910. The box is magnificently painted with scenes of wildlife and the cover is similarly signed within the scene with Sozan signature and a red seal.

Estimate: £2,000 - £4,000

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## Condition Report

1100. In very good condition with no cracks, chips or restoration. There is typical light crazing, the painting and gilt are particularly fresh and vibrant with no apparent wear or rubbing. On the underside there is a small manufacturers firing blemish to the rim. The presentation date and seal mark are also in excellent fresh condition.

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