Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Japanese Meiji Bronze Crayfish, Circa 1890

£425

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 7729

Height: 10 cm (3.9")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 20 cm (7.9")

Description

A superb pair of Japanese bronze crayfish sculptures from the Meiji period, dating to circa 1890. Remarkably lifelike and full of character, each is modelled with the extraordinary naturalism for which Japanese bronze artists of the period became renowned.

The finely observed forms capture the crayfish's articulated bodies, segmented tails, projecting eyes, delicate antennae, and powerful claws with exceptional skill. Their textured surfaces and convincing anatomy give the impression of living creatures paused in motion, while the rich patina of the bronze enhances the depth and detail of the modelling.

During the Meiji period, Japanese metalworkers achieved international acclaim for their technical virtuosity and ability to render animals, birds, insects, and aquatic life with a striking degree of realism. Such works combined close observation of nature with the highest standards of casting, chasing, and finishing, often blurring the line between sculpture and natural specimen.

These two crayfish are especially successful as a pair, their sculptural presence and finely worked detail rewarding close inspection from every angle. They would make a distinctive addition to a collection of Japanese bronzes, naturalistic animalier sculpture, or Meiji decorative arts, and would be equally effective displayed on a desk, cabinet, or within a cabinet of curiosities.

Japanese, Meiji period (1868-1912), circa 1890; bronze. Please refer to the photographs for condition, dimensions, and details of the surface finish.

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com