

TŌSHŪSAI SHARAKU / GOYO - THEATRE ACTOR - 1917



Subject: Early 20th century antique woodcut. Japanese art. Ukiyo-e. Goyo Hashiguchi.

Publication: Tokyo, 1917 - 1918.

Technique: Woodcut. The drawing is created by inking wooden plates. With Hashiguchi Goyo's workshop stamp.

Measures: 27 x 18 cm.

Description: Engraving made in the workshops of the renowned artist Hashiguchi Goyo who gathered engravings of the best artists from the year 1596 to 1896 including Utamaro, Sharaku, Toyokuni, Harunobu, Koryusai, Hiroshige, Hokusai, etc.

Tōshūsai Sharaku (flourished 1794–95, Japan) was one of the most original Japanese artists of the Ukiyo-e movement (paintings and prints of the “floating world”). Tōshūsai is said to have been a nō actor in Awa province (now Tokushima prefecture). His extant works consist of fewer than 160 prints, chiefly of actors. These prints of actors, especially the okubi-e, or half-length portraits, are striking for their intensity and for an exaggeration verging on caricature. Unlike other Ukiyo-e artists, Sharaku did not make idealized portraits but tried to penetrate the actors’ characters and to show them in poses revealing their ways of acting. Even the most handsome actor of the time, Matsumoto Yonesaburō, who played female roles, appears in Sharaku’s portrait as a thick-necked, ungainly male. Sharaku was not a very popular artist; only after his work became highly regarded by Westerners was he fully recognized by the Japanese. He used a mica ground with black sheen for his portraits until the practice was prohibited by the government.

Goyo Hashiguchi (1880 - 1921) was an artist from Japan, born in Kagoshima Prefecture. His father Hashiguchi Kanemizu was a samurai and amateur painter in the Shijō style, who hired a Kano style painting master in 1899,

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when Kiyoshi was only ten years old. Kiyoshi took the name Goyō while attending the Tokyo School of Fine Arts, where he graduated in 1905.

Condition: good condition, light oxidation marks. Mounted on museum quality passepartout acid free and ph neutral.

PS2

Reference: MD-8609

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