



Bamboo Flower Arranging (Ikebana) Basket

Includes a bamboo insert for flowers. Signed original box reads: Tanabe Chiku-Unsai. Tanabe Chikuunsai (1877-1937) was a famous 19th century basket maker. Notes about the artist: Tanabe Chikuunsai I (1877-1937) The third son of Tanabe Chikatoki Yoshitsune, doctor to Lord Matsudaira of the Amagasaki Domain, Tanabe Chikuunsai I (given the birth name of Tsuneo) took an early interest in crafts by regularly visiting a basket weaver neighbor. When he turned twelve he became an apprentice in the Osaka workshop of the bamboo artist Wada Waichisai I (1851-1901), known for his meticulous and delicate weaving employed in Chinese-style baskets and utensils for the sencha tea ceremony. He was only twenty-four when his master bestowed upon him the name of Chikuunsai ("Bamboo Cloud"), a name formerly held by Waichisai. Shortly afterward, he founded his own workshop and became an independent artisan. In 1903 Tanabe Chikuunsai I presented his first works at the fifth National Industrial Exposition, then

began to harvest many regional and national prizes. His workshop flourished, and many apprentices and established craftsmen worked there. In 1910 he moved from Osaka to Sakai. This move favored many interactions with artists and literati, which allowed Chikuunsai I to develop his art. A literati in the Chinese tradition (bunjin), he also practiced the art of floral arrangement and calligraphy by studying Chinese painting and the sencha tea ceremony. One of Chikuunsai I's ryūrikyō-style hanging baskets was presented to Emperor Taishō during the latter's visit to Osaka in 1914. In 1925 he won the Bronze Medal at the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts in Paris for another Ryūrikyō-style hanakago basket. Initially a basket weaver craftsman, he became an artist and held his first private exhibition of decorative art in bamboo.

Tanabe Chikuunsai I was at the head of an uninterrupted family lineage active over more than a century, and responsible for the training of many prestigious artists in the Kansai region.

PRICE

\$8,500

PERIOD:	c.1910
ORIGIN:	Japan
DIMENSIONS:	24" h x 7.5" diam 61cm h x 19.1cm diam
ITEM #:	LB122
