UNUSUAL LARGE DECORATIVE ANTIQUE PAPIER MÂCHÉ BOWL

SKU: GD1627

£375.00

An unusually large Paper Mache (Papier Mâché) bowl, organic form with a superb earthy colour tone. Constructed from the ancient technique known as Papier Mâché, the bowl has a wonderful patchwork of light brown wax like paper, small loss fragment underneath reveal a paper with writing, and what appears to be Japanese or Chinese characters, suggesting this was made from old printed newspapers. Difficult to date, but certainly a very old piece, some historic patchwork repair to the inside which add to its intrigue and overall look.

The bowl has a large upright upper section and a plinth style base that can also be used as a bowl when turned upside-down.

A large decorative piece, with time-worn patina.

About Paper Mache

Papier-mâché has a rich history that spans several cultures and centuries. In Ancient China the technique is believed to have originated in China around the 2nd century BC, where it was used to create items like masks and armour. The Chinese would mix paper with a binding agent, often rice paste, to form durable materials. The method spread to other cultures and by the 12th century, the technique arrived in Persia and the Middle East. Artisans used it to create

intricate decorative objects and architectural details.

Papier-mâché did not arrive in Europe until the 17th century, in France and England it became popular for making furniture, decorative arts, and theatrical props. In the 18th Century French artisans refined the technique, creating lightweight and ornate items. Notably, the French began to use it for making elaborate masks, particularly for carnival celebrations, and decorative items like trays and boxes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Age	Late 19th Century
Dimensions	H26.5cm x W46cm / H10.5" x W18"
Material	Papier Mâché
Origin	Unknown

GALLERY IMAGES