

VAN PRUISSEN ASIAN ART



Gold Lacquer four-case Inro by Mototada

Gold Lacquer four-case Inro
Japan, 19th century
Height: 10,2 cm
Signed: Mototada & 'kao'

This 19th-century Japanese **inro**, standing 10.2 cm tall and signed by **Mototada**, features a willow tree, straw hat (ichimegasa), pond, bridge, and island. These elements are rusumoyō (absence patterns), alluding to "The Willow Tree" folktale. In this story, a farmer saves a willow, marries its spirit, and she vanishes when the tree is cut for a bridge. The **inro** beautifully encapsulates themes of **mono no aware** (the pathos of things), the symbiosis between humanity and nature, and the intertwined material and spiritual realms, offering a profound narrative for both new and seasoned collectors.