

PAN

AMSTERDAM

VAN PRUISSEN ASIAN ART



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Japan, Taisho period (1912-1926)
Signed Daiju Saku

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Tsuda's work is distinguished by a refined balance of traditional Japanese craftsmanship and modernist aesthetics. He specialized in bronze sculpture, producing elegant vases, stylized animals, and small decorative objects (okimono) that often featured organic motifs and a minimalist sensibility. His art was widely exhibited, including at the Tokyo Industrial Exposition of 1907 and the prestigious Paris Exposition of 1925, where he represented Japan on an international stage. He was twice decorated by the French government—in 1928 and again in 1933—for his contributions to the arts. Beyond his own practice, Tsuda was instrumental in the formation of the Muken group in 1926, a movement that aimed to reinvigorate Japanese craft traditions through modern approaches. His contributions were further recognized when he was inducted into the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in 1935, becoming a full member two years later. Even after his death in 1946, Tsuda's legacy endured through his students and successors. In recent decades, his work has been revisited and celebrated, most notably in the 2016–2017 retrospective “Giant of Metal Art” at the Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art. Works by him can be found in major museum collections.