

A bronze flower vessel of globular form with a short neck, decorated with mottled patina
Japan, 20th century, Shōwa period
Dimensions: H. 10.5 cm x Diam. 10.5 cm (H. 4¼" x Diam. 4¼")
Tomobako (original box) inscribed:
Lid: Hanshido kabin (bronze vase with mottled purple patina)
Lid interior: Yoshihisa and sealed Yoshihisa
Sealed Yoshihisa to the base
This small, elegant vessel has a rich, mottled purple patina – this type of bronze is known as hanshido.
The bronze is formed using lost-wax process, fired at a high temperature and taken out from the kiln once the surface has oxidised. It is then polished to reveal the unique, beautiful irregular patterns formed by chance. The colour of hanshido is believed to deepen and become richer over time and use, a feature much appreciated by collectors.



