



7533      A bronze usubata (thin rim) flower vessel

Japan 19th century Edo period

Dimensions: H. 28cm x Diam. 19.5cm (11¼" x 7¾")

The classical form of usubata (thin rim) with a broad flat top often edged with an upturning lip is a uniquely Japanese design, although the main body echoes Chinese vessels. Usubata have been in use in Japan since the 16th century and favoured by Senkō II, a renowned master of Ikenobo, the oldest school of ikebana (flower arrangement).

Throughout the ages the form of usubata evolved together with changing tastes and trends in the flower arranging world. From the mid Edo period the mouth of the vessel was often splayed rather than

horizontal and could be filled with water. In the early 19th century this type of usubata was popularised by Murata Seimin (1761-1837) and his Edo based school.

For vessels of similar style see: Flower bronzes of Japan, Joe Earle, 1995, pp. 96-103