

PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release

ART OF WAR LAUNCHES “THE SKULL KNIGHT”, ITS FIRST ALL-METAL STATUE

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*Guided by the credo of "creating art that endures for 100 years", this exquisite statue is crafted by Japan's finest artisans. Their world-class expertise and commitment to Japanese craftsmanship realize this vision, creating a masterpiece that embodies timeless elegance and unmatched quality, reviving and revitalizing nearly forgotten skills, workmanship and the spirit of artisans.*  
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The Skull Knight

July 2024 - Tokyo, Japan –KENSHIN CO., LTD., Japan's foremost craft maker specializing in limited-edition art statues inspired by Japanese historical figures, proudly announces the debut of its first-ever all-metal statue, named The Skull Knight. This exquisite piece is meticulously handcrafted by Japanese artisans renowned for their world-class skills and is entirely crafted in Japan.

Origins of The Skull Knight: The Inspiration Behind the Creation

Why did we embark on creating this piece? ART OF WAR has dedicated itself to researching Japanese art, history, and culture, exploring themes of 'the beauty of Japan' and 'battle' since 1997. With over twenty-seven years of dedication, we have crafted numerous artworks, sharing them

around the world.

Japan possesses a wealth of splendid traditional techniques that have been handed down through generations. Yet, challenges such as aging artisans and a shortage of successors are contributing to the decline of these crafts. Metal casting is among these venerable arts facing such challenges.

Nevertheless, amidst these challenges, there are artisans possessing world-class skills and unwavering passion today. We are committed to preserving and showcasing the magnificent craftsmanship of these Japanese artisans on the global stage. With this goal in mind, we aim to integrate their expertise into art that will endure for the next 100 years.

A skull symbolizes regeneration, embodying both death and the emergence of life. It represents the delicate balance between existence and mortality, a theme that resonates deeply in our daily lives and in the perpetual struggle where death looms nearby. The skull motif, portrayed in countless paintings and artworks, has maintained a timeless and profound connection with humanity since ancient times, serving as a universal symbol.

The decline and subsequent resurgence of Japanese craftsmanship marks a story of regeneration. Crafting a flawless metal artwork depicting a skull represents a groundbreaking innovation in Japanese casting expertise and embodies a bold challenge undertaken in the quest for revival.

ART OF WAR has carefully considered this project over an extended period, overcoming numerous obstacles, and has now successfully completed The Skull Knight.

Craftsmanship and Design: Detailing The Skull Knight

A metal statue featuring such exceptional quality in a skull motif would be difficult to find elsewhere in the world. This masterful craftsmanship embodies the aspirations for the revitalization of Japanese craftsmanship and the ambitious spirit of elite Japanese artisans.

Despite its modest dimensions—measuring just 8cm in length and weighing 0.9kg—this statue exemplifies exquisite craftsmanship, accentuated by its compact size. Additionally, its detachable head offers a dual purpose, functioning not only as a piece of art but also as a ring. This innovative concept transcends traditional perceptions of artwork, providing enjoyment in both forms.

The pedestal, symbolizing the torso, is meticulously crafted from pewter, an ancient material known for its minimal oxidation and rich, deep metallic finish compared to silver. By employing metals, the goal is to create enduring artwork capable of lasting a hundred years. Conversely, the head is fashioned from 925 sterling silver, highlighting its delicate brilliance and texture. The use of distinct materials for the torso and head enhances the unique textures and characters of each, complementing one another seamlessly.

Was the armor worn by the skull something he wore in life, or does it symbolize evidence of his past as a king? The skull, representing both life and death, evokes contradictions while also conveying a profound sense of impermanence. How do you interpret The Skull Knight?



The Skull Knight



The head can be detached and worn as a ring for dual enjoyment.

■ Artwork Specifications

Artwork Title:	The Skull Knight
Size:	Base: approximately W15 x D8.5 x H7.5 cm The head can also be used as a ring.
Weight:	Base: approximately 0.9 kg
Materials:	Base: tin Head: 925 sterling silver
Included Accessories:	1. Serial number engraved on the underside of the base. 2. Rubber ring (for adjusting fit between base and head)
Price:	Base: JP¥450,000 Head: from JP¥75,000 (price varies depending on ring size)
Manufacturer:	ART OF WAR (KENSHIN Co., Ltd.)
Recommended Age of Use:	18 years or older

This art piece is proudly conceived and crafted entirely in Japan

To order this piece, please access the following URL: <https://www.art-of-war.jp/product/1026>

■ Please Note:

1. This product is meticulously handcrafted by artisans, resulting in potential variations in color, texture, etc., compared to how they appear in images.
2. Returns are accepted only for errors on our part; returns due to customer preferences, such as differences in appearance, are not accepted.
3. Images are for illustrative purposes only.
4. Colors may appear differently depending on your display device.
5. Color representation may vary from the image due to photography or display environments.
6. Sizes are based on prototype measurements, so slight variations in the final product may occur.
7. This item is an artwork for display purposes only. Please do not use it as a everyday accessory.
8. Please handle with care, as there may be sharp parts designed for artistic expression.
9. Images shown are of samples or prototypes; there may be some changes in the final production.

This product has been developed and is sold by KENSHIN Co., Ltd. (ART OF WAR)

Website: <https://art-of-war.tokyo.jp/>

■ About KENSHIN Co., Ltd.

KENSHIN Co., Ltd. specializes in the planning, development, production, and sale of authentic three-dimensional art and craft products, focusing on meticulous detail and unique color expression under the theme of “the beauty of Japan.” With over twenty years of experience, we have dedicated ourselves to researching and recreating armor and costumes from the Sengoku era, particularly the Azuchi-Momoyama period. Our work includes the restoration of authentic armor and the creation of replica pieces, drawing from extensive research to produce unparalleled three-dimensional artworks.

Operating under the trademark brand “ART OF WAR,” inspired by Sun Tzu’s “The Art of War,” we believe in the enduring beauty found within the struggle of “life” and “death.” Our commitment lies in creating works that transcend fleeting trends, aiming to be appreciated globally even after 100 years.

■ Company Overview

Company Name:	KENSHIN Co., Ltd.
Trading As:	ART OF WAR
Address:	Nihonbashi Yuwa Bldg

3-3-8 Nihonbashi Motoishicho
Chuo-ku
Tokyo 103-0021
Japan

Representative Director: Yutaro Sakakibara
Company Established: February 18, 1997
Capitalization: JP¥10,000,000
Business Activities: Planning, production, development, modeling, manufacturing, sales,
and related consulting services for various three-dimensional objects,
visual media, and paintings.
Website: <https://kenshin.tokyo.jp/>

■ Contact Information

For General Enquiries and Media Relations:
Haruka Kimura, Project Coordinator
Tel: +(81) 3 5299-5617 E-mail: sale@art-of-war.co.jp

For Overseas and English-language Enquiries:
Suzuki
Email: assist@art-of-war.jp