PAGODA RED







HEXAGONAL RED CLAY OPIUM PIPE BOWL

\$148

c. 1900 • China • Yixing • Collection #CDKZ0840 W: 2.5" D: 2.25" H: 2.5"

This unusual object is an early 20th century opium pipe bowl, sculpted of fine yixing red clay to a squat, six-sided form and fitted with a brass collar. Minimal and refined, the pipe bowl is decorated only by the maker's mark and text prominently stamped onto one side.

Unlike a tobacco pipe, the opium pipe was designed especially to allow resinous opium to be vaporized, rather than burned. Consequently, opium pipes have a distinctive form, featuring a long pipe-stem with a mouthpiece at one end and a pipe bowl affixed by a metal saddle two-thirds down the pipe. The opposite end of the stem would remain sealed, ensuring all airflow passed through pipe-bowl. Continued...



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Small chip to top edge.