

PAIR OF FINE CELADON CUPS



A very fine pair of fine *Quinbai* cups with multi-lobed rims shaped like a blossoming lotus petal made of a porcelain. The porcelain is white and very thin due to its fine texture, and is covered in a translucent monochromic bluish celadon glaze of a ferrous light green, typical of celadon. A more rough support base show traces of patina in a rust colour due to contact with a metal. The porcelain is made with white clay, the kaolin (name given to a clay extracted from the *Gaolin* hill), a feldspar composed of mica and quartz fired at a high temperature (1350°C.) thus obtaining a material with the same hardness as iron on the Mohs scale.

Porcelain was invented by Chinese people. The word *Qingbai*, meaning "bluish-white", designates the porcelains made in southern China. The Song period saw the development of a very sophisticated ceramic that combines in perfect manner the shape, the potter's techniques, the glaze and the firing methods to the point of excellence. The Song liked simple and pure forms with monochrome glaze going from blue to light green and including all the tones of grey and blue. The goal was to reproduce both the hues of the sky and of jade, the most precious matter of all. Some of these objects were already worth so much during the Song

period that they were used in trade and even to pay taxes to the imperial court.

Art. N° 1610 Origin: Archaic and Imperial China
 Dimensions: Diam: 10,5 cm (4,1")