



Fubako (document or scroll box) with a design of willow by a stream under moonlight

Date

early 20th century

Medium

Lacquer, gold, silver, and abalone shell

Description

This box has a design in hiramaki-e of willow, an emblem of gracefulness and obedience, against the unusual red-lacquer ground called bengara. A single willow can connote longing for an absent lover. The stream shown here contains two jakago, basket-like containers of stones that were placed in shallow water to prevent erosion. The three-quarter moon in takamaki-e illuminates this serene landscape.

Dimensions

1 7/8 × 2 3/8 × 9 inches (4.8 × 6 × 22.9 cm)