

VINTAGE FRENCH RAKU CERAMIC TURTLE SCULPTURE WITH CRACKLED GLAZE

$1,150

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Add a touch of whimsical charm to a tabletop, console, or study with this decorative vintage French turtle sculpture. Crafted in Southern France circa 1980 using the traditional Raku firing technique, the ceramic tortoise features a realistic crawling pose with an elongated neck, expressive face, and four sturdy legs extending from beneath its rounded shell.

The sculptural reptile is beautifully detailed with textured skin, individually modeled toes, and a gentle, lifelike expression. Its domed shell is finished in a soft cream and beige glaze, embellished with an intricate network of dark crackled lines characteristic of Raku pottery. The contrasting body features a textured charcoal gray finish, creating a striking two-tone composition.

The removable shell reveals a hollow interior, allowing the sculpture to function as a decorative covered container or unusual trinket box. The combination of naturalistic modeling and distinctive ceramic craftsmanship makes this piece both functional and artistic.

Raku is a traditional ceramic firing technique in which pottery is removed from the kiln while extremely hot and often placed in combustible materials, producing distinctive surface effects, including the characteristic crackled glaze.

Symbolizing longevity, wisdom, and stability, this antique-style turtle sculpture is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with a beautifully aged appearance. A charming addition to a library, office, or collection of animal sculptures.

Dimensions: 10.5"W x 14"D x 4.75"H.

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