Antique Hand Embroidered Japanese Panels

Japanese embroidery is a embroidery technique that goes back more than 1000 years. Originating in China and eventually introduced to Japan by Korean artisans. In its early stages Japanese Embroidery was only used for decorating items used during religious ceremonies. Over time as shishu (embroidery) developed its own unique Japanese qualities and characteristics and took on a more artistic purpose. According to historians, from the early Heian Period Japanese embroidery was primarily used for decorating costumes of the Ladies of the Court and only the highest ranks of society could afford such costly work.

Traditional Japanese embroidery is worked with the finest quality silk and metallic threads almost always on a silk background. The fabric is mounted on a frame which is made according to a design used for over a thousand years. It is held drum-tight and, because of this, tension can be kept on the threads to enhance the shine. The thread is reeled filament silk, used flat or twisted by hand to a variety of sizes and degree of twist. The metallics are Japanese gold or silver in several sizes, twisted around a thread core and held in place on the work by couching with a fine silk thread.