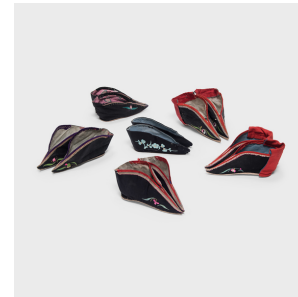


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# PAGODA RED

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## SILK BOUND FOOT LOTUS SLIPPER

**\$288**

c. 1850 • Northern China, China • Silk, Cotton • Collection #PRO013E

W: 4.0" D: 6.0" H: 2.75"

These pointed black slippers, beautifully stand out with an embroidered red trim and pink blossoming flower detail. This pair was shaped to resemble a lotus bud and enhanced the diminutive shape of bound feet. A practice that began in the Tang dynasty and reached the height of its popularity during the Qing dynasty, foot binding was a painful process intended to make a woman's feet as small as possible by restricting bone growth from an early age. The smaller the feet the more attractive they were, giving elite women a mark of elegance and a distinctive gait of small, light steps.

Continued...



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## SILK BOUND FOOT LOTUS SLIPPER

These beautifully preserved lotus slippers give us a glimpse into this curious practice and the complicated role fashion played in gender identity throughout China's past.

