

### **Takashima-Style Cannon**

This cannon is thought to have been made in the last decades of the Edo period (1603–1867) by a student of Takashima Shūhan (1798–1866), a gunsmith from Nagasaki who studied Western artillery and military tactics.

In the early 1800s, Shūhan became concerned by the technological gap between Western and Japanese weaponry, in particular Japan's lack of cannons and firearms. Shūhan acquired firearms from the Dutch traders living on Dejima, and by studying them he was able to learn how to make them himself. In 1834, Shūhan formalized this knowledge and founded the Takashima School of Gunnery. However, in 1842 he was arrested and imprisoned in Edo (now Tokyo) for his support and advocacy of Western technology. Shūhan was kept a prisoner until 1853, when the arrival of Commodore Mathew Perry (1794–1858) and his squadron of warships convinced the Japanese government of their technological and military inferiority. Shūhan was pardoned and released, and in 1856 he became a military instructor for the Tokugawa shogunate.