

BLUE AND WHITE SOUP SPOON

\$18

c. 1850 • Northern China, China • Porcelain • Collection #QQ016H W: 3.75" D: 1.75" H: 1.75"

A delicate example of the time-honored practice of blue-and-white ceramics, this 19th-century soup spoon was likely used as an everyday eating utensil. Used in China as early as the Shang dynasty (1600 - 1046 B.C.), spoons predated chopsticks and remained the most common utensil until the 10th century. The spoon's simple form is patterned with sweeping lines of blue, imparting a remarkable sense of movement and elevating it from a functional tool to a sculptural object.