



Fine
Japanese
Art

AUCTION

Friday,
2 December 2022

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SINCE 1968





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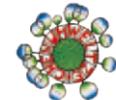
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Lacquer & Inlaid Works of Art

Lots 1 to 33



1
A LARGE RIMPA STYLE LACQUERED AND INLAID PAULOWNIA WOOD HIBACHI (BRAZIER) WITH LUNAR HARES

Japan, second half of 19th century, late Edo period (1615-1868) to early Meiji period (1868-1912)

The wood ground finely decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with aogai inlays to depict two moon rabbits in a densely grown field with flowers, leaves, and grasses, under a pewter-lacquered moon. The hollowed interior with a copper liner.

DIAMETER 62 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear and traces of use, minor nicks, light scratches, minor losses to lacquer and inlays. The copper liner with some malachite encrustations.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

The hibachi (lit. fire bowl) is a traditional Japanese heating device. It is a brazier which is either round, cylindrical, or box-shaped, open-topped container, made from or lined with a heatproof material and designed to hold burning charcoal. It is believed hibachi date back to the Heian period. It is filled with incombustible ash, and charcoal sits in the center of the ash. To handle the charcoal, a pair of metal chopsticks called hibashi (lit. 'fire chopsticks') is used in a way similar to Western fire irons or tongs. Hibachi were used for heating, not for cooking. It heats by radiation, and is too weak to warm a whole room, often disappointing foreigners who expected such power. Sometimes, people placed a tetsubin (iron kettle) over the hibachi to boil water for tea. Later, by the 1900s, some cooking was also done over the hibachi.

This popular motif originates in China, where the rabbit is often portrayed as a companion of the Moon goddess Chang'e, constantly pounding the elixir of life for her.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related paulownia wood hibachi, dated late 19th century, Meiji period, 89 cm long, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Works of Art, 17 September 2013, New York, lot 3118 (sold for USD 4,375).

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



2
A RITSUO STYLE CERAMIC-INLAID AND LACQUERED WOOD KODANSU (CABINET) WITH A LOTUS POND AND EGRETS

Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of rectangular form with brown-lacquered borders, the black-lacquered ground finely decorated in iro-e takamaki-e with inlays of ceramic with a densely grown lotus pond, with leaves and petals blowing in the wind. The hinged frontal cover with functional lock mechanism and original key, opening to reveal seven similarly decorated drawers with chrysanthemum-form gilt fittings, the interior of the cover similarly decorated with two egrets standing in a river amid a willow and other trees, reeds, rockwork, and three birds flying in the distance.

SIZE 28 x 38 x 23.3 cm

Condition: Good condition with expected surface wear, small nicks, light scratches, minor chips, some inlays with minor cracks and small losses.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

Ogawa Haritsu (1663-1747) was among the first Japanese lacquer artists to establish an independent reputation outside of the hereditary craft dynasties of Kyoto, Edo, and Kanazawa. In lacquer, he introduced a vocabulary of new materials not usually associated with lacquer artists such as glazed ceramic pieces, mother-of-pearl, and lead. Haritsu also mastered the technique of making lacquer surfaces appear to resemble other materials such as bronze, tile, ink sticks, and pottery, a style of decoration which became known as Haritsu saiku.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500





**3
A RARE LACQUER KYOSOKU (ARMREST)**

Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The kyosoku embellished in gold and silver takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with details of nashiji and kirigane all against a lustrous roiro ground, depicting a pair of ho-o birds in flight amid a blossoming branch of paulownia (kiri), five Tosa Kashiwa mon scattered across the top and lobed feet, the reverse decorated in mura-nashiji.

SIZE 64.5 x 21.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few light surface scratches, and minuscule nicks.

Provenance: British trade.

The Tosa Kashiwa mon was especially used by the Tosa Yamauchi clan, which ruled over what was then the Tosa Province that spanned the southern half of Shikoku Island.



Tosa Kashiwa mon

Both the ho-o bird and the paulownia (kiri) tree are imperial symbols of Japan. According to legend, the ho-o, a bird similar to the phoenix that represents the eternal rebirth of the soul, only settles on the Kiri tree. In the hope of attracting this auspicious bird that blesses people with wisdom, health and happiness, the trees are planted in courtyards and gardens.

Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000



**4
HOTOKUSAI: A FINE TWO TIERED
'FAN AND BIRDS' LACQUER JUBAKO**

By Hotokusai, signed Hotokusai Kakushu with kakihan
Japan, 19th century

The jubako (picnic box) of rectangular form, two-tiered, rising from four lobed feet, the exterior decorated in gold and silver takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with overlapping fans depicting birds and flowers, including cranes, phoenix, mandarin ducks, egrets, and quails, all above an attractively grained wood ground. The interior embellished in gold and silver takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with chrysanthemums, peonies, and various floral roundels against a cloudy e-nashiji ground. The base signed HOTOKUSAI KAKUSHU with kakihan.

SIZE 19.4 x 12.7 x 16.2 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor expected wear to lacquer. Some age cracks.

Provenance: British private collection.

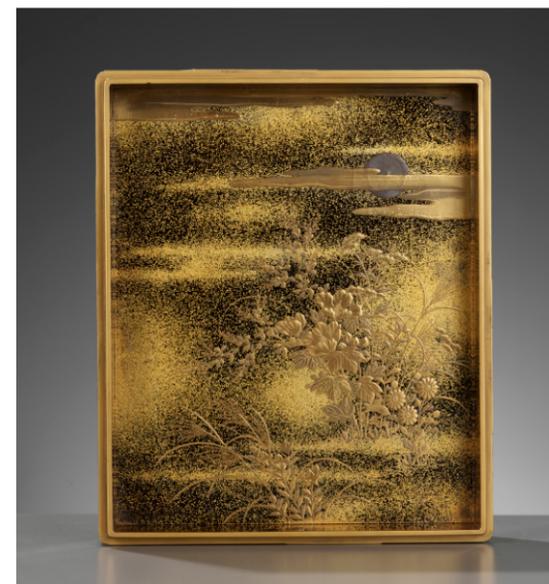
The artist is recorded by E. A. Wrangham, *The Index of Inro Artists*, Northumberland, Harehope, 1995, p. 109.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related lacquer tray by Hotokusai Kakushu, 19th century, at Christie's, *The Japanese Aesthetic*, 7 November 2012, London, lot 412 (sold for 5,625 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800





5
**A SUPERB RED LACQUER
 TEBAKO WITH SIMULATED-METAL
 SWORD FITTINGS**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of rectangular form, the flush-fitting lid with curved edges in gold fundame, the exterior bearing a red ground finely decorated with simulated metal tsuba, kozuka, and arrowheads in gold and colored hiramaki-e and takamaki-e with polychrome lacquer imitating metal iro-e techniques, the base and interior of rich nashiji with gold fundame edges.

The simulated sword-fittings decorated with a variety of popular subjects, including the three sake testers Shaka (The historical Buddha), Koshi (Confucius), and Roshi (Laozi); Urashima Taro; the Chinese general Kan'u with his retainer, Chokaro and Chinnan sennin, and Shoki about to catch an oni under his banner. Some of the tsuba and kozuka with the signatures of famous metalworkers.

SIZE 12.4 x 24.3 x 20 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, expected minor age cracks, few tiny chips.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 76.3309.a-b (lacquered to the interior of the cover and the base). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.

The practice of decorating lacquer boxes with faithful imitations of sword-fittings seems to have been initiated by Shibata Zeshin (1807-1891). According to Sawaguchi Goichi's monumental study of Japanese lacquer, *Nihon shikko no kenkyu* (1933), a negative mold of the sword-fitting motif was made in plaster and the design was built inside the mold by applying the various layers of lacquer in reverse order. The lacquer decoration was then released from the mold and applied to the box. This method would account for the existence of identical motifs on different cabinets, some signed and some unsigned.



Detail image of an identical tsuba on an inro-dansu by Shibata Zeshin

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related inro-dansu with simulated tsuba and kozuka and featuring identical designs, signed and by Shibata Zeshin, illustrated in Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1996, Shibata Zeshin, no. 72.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related inro-dansu, dated second half of 19th century, 30.5 x 35.2 x 22.8 cm, at Christie's, *Netsuke & Lacquer from the Japanese Department of Eskenazi*, 17 November 1999, London, lot 23 (sold for 25,300 GBP). Compare a related inro-dansu, dated Meiji period, 29 x 34.6 x 22.5 cm, at Bonhams, *Fine Japanese Art*, 11 May 2017, London, lot 229 (sold for 12,500 GBP). Compare a related tebakko, also dated late 19th century, 11.2 x 20.1 x 23.5 cm, at Christie's, *Japanese Art and Design*, 13 November 2002, London, lot 81 (sold for 7,170 GBP).



Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





6
**A SUPERB INLAID LACQUER
 TEBAKO AND COVER DEPICTING A KABUTO
 WITH KUWAGATA AND DRAGON MAEDATE**

Japan, 19th century

Of rectangular form, the roiro ground finely decorated in iro-e takamaki-e with a hoshi-bachi kabuto, the kuwagata maedate with inome ('boar's eyes') is inlaid with gilt metal, the helmet is centered by a well-carved dragon maedate with neatly incised mane, the exterior edges of gold nashiji, the interiors and base of nashiji, the interior edges of gold fundame.

SIZE 13 x 24.4 x 19.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few tiny age cracks to lacquer only on the interior, few minuscule areas of lacquer flaking to edges. Minor wear to gilt-metal inlays.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 74.185.86 (lacquered to the interior of the cover). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The

vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related red-lacquered tebakō and cover with a near-identical kabuto, dated Taisho to early Showa period, early 20th century, at Christie's, 21 March 2012, New York, lot 933 (sold for 6,875 USD).

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)





7
AN INLAID LACQUER BOX AND COVER WITH THE THIRD PRINCESS (ONNO SAN NO MIYA) AND HER CAT FROM THE TALE OF GENJI

Japan, second half of 19th century

Well modeled as two overlapping boxes of rectangular form, the larger section with indented corners and bearing a kinji ground and finely decorated in gold and iro-e takamaki-e as well as shibuichi, shakudo, and silver takazogan to depict the Third Princess (Onno San no Miya) looking toward her cat playing with the hem of her long flowing court robe, the sides with stenciled designs of paulownia mon, ho-o bird, lotus, and butterfly, the corners with foliate designs, the smaller section with canted corners and bearing a wood ground similarly decorated with a swallow flying below wisteria, continuing over to the sides with another swallow perched on a branch. The unusual, red-lacquered interior with leafy vines and butterflies.

SIZE 7.2 x 23 x 19 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few minuscule nicks, occasional light scratches, a minor loss to silver inlay.
 Provenance: British private collection.



The Third Princess with her cat, by Tsukioka Settei, 18th century, Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 2015.300.40



The Third Princess with her cat, by Suzuki Harunobu (1724-1770), Honolulu Museum of Art

The present lacquer box depicts a scene from Chapter 34, Wakana no jo of Genji Monogatari (The Tales of Genji). The focal point of one of the tragic romances in the second half of The Tale of Genji is the childlike Third Princess (Onna San no Miya), whom Genji takes to wed in his middle years. While pursuing her runaway cat, the young girl emerges from her living quarters and is seen by Kashiwagi, son of Genji's best friend, who falls in love with her. This results in a clandestine relationship, Kashiwagi's guilt-inspired illness and death, and an infant passed off – with Genji's unspoken knowledge of the truth – as Genji's offspring.

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200





8
**A VERY RARE AND SUPERB INLAID
 LACQUER BOX AND COVER DEPICTING
 LUNAR HARES**

Japan, 19th century

Of rounded rectangular form, the kinji ground finely decorated in gold, silver, and copper takamaki-e, hiramaki-e, and togidashi with kirigane as well as inlays of aogai (mother-of-pearl) to depict two hares amid leafy chrysanthemums, lilies, other flowers, and clovers as well as craggy rocks, the cover further with three silver-lacquered kana characters in cursive script (ashide) reading 'Tsuki no yo' (The moon at night). The hares' eyes are inlaid with coral and amber. The base and interior of nashiji, the interior with gold fundame edges, the rims of silver.

SIZE 7 x 15.3 x 11.6 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 75.1892 (lacquered to the base). Old collector's label '#16' to base. Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items

and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)

The inscription on the present box, coupled with the two hares, is an allusion to the lunar hare, a mythical figure who lives on the Moon in Far Eastern folklore, based on pareidolia interpretations that identify the dark markings on the near side of the moon as a rabbit or hare. This popular motif originates in China, where the rabbit is often portrayed as a companion of the moon goddess Chang'e, constantly pounding the elixir of life for her. In the Japanese variation, the lunar hare is often seen pounding mochi.

Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000



9
**A GOLD LACQUER BOX AND COVER
 AND FOUR KOGO (INCENSE CONTAINERS)
 FOR THE INCENSE MATCHING GAME**

Japan, 19th century

Of rounded rectangular form, the kinji ground finely decorated in gold and silver takamaki-e to depict two fish as well as an aogai-inlaid awabi and a smaller clam and conch, one fish with a glass-inlaid eye, the exterior and interior sides of the box and cover of dense nashiji, the base of sparse nashiji and with a circular aperture. The box contains four flush-fitting rectangular boxes and covers, each decorated in iro-e takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with nashiji to depict different views of Mount Fuji, the sides and interior with nashiji to match the larger box.

SIZE 5.6 x 15.3 x 11.8 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, few light surface scratches, expected age cracks, minor flaking to lacquer, few minuscule chips.
 Provenance: British private estate.

This set was used in an incense game called jishu-ko (literally 'ten types of incense'). Before the competition begins, three different kinds of incense wood are burned and named for the guests. Then follow ten rounds in which the master of ceremonies burns small pieces while the guests try to identify each, recording their answers on paper slips. The rounds include three of each of the original types of incense, as well as one piece of a fourth kind, the 'guest incense' (kyaku-ko).

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



10
**A FINE LACQUER BOX AND COVER
 DEPICTING INSECTS WITH INTERIOR TRAY**

Japan, 19th century

Of rounded rectangular form, the exterior superbly decorated in iro-e takamaki-e and hiramaki-e to depict various insects including a dragonfly, butterfly, praying mantis, crickets, and ladybugs as well as scattered leafy and floral sprays, all against a fine woodgrain ground in e-nashiji on roiro. The base and interior with dense nashiji and fundame edges, fitted with a tray similarly decorated with cranes flying over pine trees against a nashiji ground.

SIZE 6.2 x 16.7 x 13.5 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, the cover with a small chip and associated minor crack to one corner, few minuscule chips to edges, few expected age cracks, and minor flaking to lacquer.
 Provenance: British private estate.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





The western air can mold
In bloom the hedgeside flowers.
Your pure heart stands the cold;
You're spotless in late hours:
Proud against frost and snow,
Fragrant with autumn dew.
Where will your white dress go?
Wine is the poet's due.

poem by Xu Ting Heng (active c. 1720)

11
A RARE TSUIKOKU (CARVED BLACK LACQUER) KOGO (INCENSE BOX) AND COVER WITH CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND POEM

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of rounded square form, the cover neatly carved with two chrysanthemum blossoms amid craggy rockwork, reeds, and leaves, the chrysanthemum stigmas with fine nashiji, the upper right corner with raised characters reading 'Pure and proud in frosty weather, fragrant (white chrysanthemum) flowers in autumn dew', quoting a poem by the Qing-dynasty poet Xu Ting Heng, and with two raised seals, Kaan and U (Migi). The sides with foliage. The interior of both the box and cover with a roiro ground finely decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with chrysanthemums amid dense grasses with dew drops and dragonflies.

SIZE 2.7 x 9.1 x 9.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, expected minor age cracks, few tiny nicks and nibbles.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 78.9885.B (lacquered to the base and interior rim). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



12
IKKOKUSAI: A SUPERB TAKAMORIE LACQUERED CIRCULAR WOOD BOX AND COVER WITH INSECTS AND LEAVES

By Ikkokusai, signed Ikkokusai
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of compressed globular form, the box with deep rounded sides supported on a short foot and rising to a gently incurved rim, the domed cover with a black and red-lacquered knob handle, the finely polished wood of attractive grain and color, well decorated in colored takamori-e with a praying mantis, two wasps, and partly nibbled leaves borne on vines, the base with a spiral design and the signature IKKOKUSAI saku [made by Ikkokusai].

DIAMETER 20 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few small losses to lacquer.
Provenance: British collection.

Kinjo Ikkokusai III perfected the takamori-e design technique and won an award for excellence at the Kyoto Exhibition in Meiji 9 (1876). His reputation for work in this technique grew and at least 14 items were produced by him for the Meiji emperor. His son Kinoshita Chisai did not succeed to his father's name, which went instead to his younger brother, who became Ikkokusai IV. The current generation practicing this rare technique, Kinjo Ikkokusai VII, was designated as a Hiroshima Prefectural Intangible Cultural Property Holder in "Ikkokusai Takamorie" techniques in 2011.



LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related hanaike (flower container) depicting spiders in takamori-e, by Kinoshita Chisai (the son of Kinjo Ikkokusai III), with Rosemary Bandini Japanese Art. Compare also a related bowl with similar nibbled leaves in takamori-e by Kinjo Ikkokusai, dated 19th century, in the collection of the Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery, Kent, United Kingdom.



Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400



13
**A FINE SILVER LACQUER KOGO
 (INCENSE BOX) AND COVER WITH
 A WATER STRIDER (HIMEAMENBO)**

Japan, 19th century, late Edo (1615-1868) to early Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of circular domed form, the silver-lacquered ground finely decorated in black and gold takamaki-e with a water strider (himeamenbo), the neatly detailed wings drawn in, the interior lacquered black with gold fundame edges. Note the fine lacquer technique to the silver ground and black interior, both reminiscent of the Zeshin school.

DIAMETER 5.4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: British private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a related lacquer kogo with a similar ground, by Shibata Zeshin, offered at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 10 November 2011, London, lot 247 (estimate 15,000-20,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

14
**A GOLD LACQUER 'DOUBLE PEACH'
 KOBAKO (SMALL BOX) AND COVER**

Japan, 19th century



Well modeled as two peaches, bearing a kinji ground and lacquered in gold and silver takamaki-e with several leaves attached to the stalk, the undersides of some leaves highlighted with minute gold flakes, two leaves finely rendered with insect nibbles, the interior of nashiji with gold fundame edges.

LENGTH 16 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few tiny nibbles and minuscule chips to edges, occasional light surface scratches.
 Provenance: British private estate.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related gold lacquer kobako and cover, modeled as a single peach, 10.6 cm long, at Bonhams, The Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 396 (sold for 2,375 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



15
**A FINE AND RARE LACQUER JU-KOBAKO
 (SMALL TIERED BOX), COVER AND STAND
 DEPICTING MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES**

Japan, second half of 19th century

Of rectangular form with canted edges decorated with an aogai-inlaid diapered border, bearing a roiro ground finely decorated in gold takamaki-e and togidashi with kirigane and e-nashiji to depict vast mountainous landscapes to the top and sides, with temples, a pagoda, a boat, trees, and birds, the base and interiors of nashiji, the interior edges of gold fundame, surmounted by an overlapping four-legged cover decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e and hiramaki-e, kirikane, and aogai inlays with various brocade designs including ho-o roundels and paulownia sprigs, supported on a rectangular gold-lacquered and nashiji stand raised on four short bracket feet.

SIZE 7.1 x 7.2 x 6 cm

Condition: Very good condition with only very minor wear, the stand with few tiny nicks and light scratches.

Provenance: English private collection. Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 16 May 2013, London, lot 383 (sold for 2,500 GBP). English private collection, acquired from the above.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related lacquer three-tiered stacking set of lobed boxes with a similar overlapping cover, 10 x 14.2 x 12 cm, at Bonhams, 13 May 2021, London, lot 76 (sold for 6,120 GBP).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500





16
**A VERY RARE GOLD LACQUER TABLE-FORM
 ORNAMENT DEPICTING MINOGAME**

Japan, 19th century

Of square form with indented corners, supported on four elegantly curved gold-lacquered cabriole legs. Exquisitely decorated in gold, silver, and black takamaki-e and hiramaki-e to depict a minogame standing foursquare in the center with four smaller minogame of varying sizes clambering on top of it and each other, their bushy seaweed-tails superbly executed with countless gold lacquered 'threads' covering the entire tabletop over the silver and gold lacquered waves and clouds detailed with e-nashiji. The underside of nashiji.

SIZE 8.8 x 19.1 x 19.1 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, expected age cracks to lacquer, little rubbing to lacquer.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 76.3310 (lacquered to the underside). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





17
**A LACQUER SUZURIBAKO
 DEPICTING SHISHI AND HOTEI**

Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)



Detail image of the interior cover depicting Hotei with his finely decorated treasure bag

Of rounded rectangular form, bearing a roiro ground, the cover finely decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with e-nashiji to depict two ferocious shishi standing foursquare in dynamic poses, well detailed with scrolling bushy manes and tails, muscular bodies, sharp claws and fangs, and large bulging eyes with black pupils ringed in red. The interior is decorated in gold, silver and black hiramaki-e to depict Hotei standing beside his large treasure sack detailed with paulownia sprays and phoenixes in gold takamaki-e, supporting himself on a cane and holding a fan in his left hand, wearing a loose-fitting robe, his face with a cheerful expression framed by large earlobes. The baseboard fitted with plain brush holders and a suzuri (inkstone). The interior with gold fundame edges.

SIZE 4.5 x 25.4 x 23.5 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, minor rubbing to gilt, small nicks to interior of the cover, occasional light scratches. Some discoloration to the silver-lacquered robe of Hotei.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a red-lacquered wood storage box.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500

18
**A GOLD LACQUER WAR-FAN SHAPED
 SUZURIBAKO WITH TIGER IN BAMBOO
 (TAKE NO TORA)**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Published: Stephen Little and Edmund J. Lewis, View of the Pinnacle: Japanese Lacquer Writing Boxes: The Lewis Collection of Suzuribako, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2011, p. 51, no.23.

In the form of a gunbai (war fan), the cover bisected at the center by a bamboo stem in high relief issuing bamboo leaves in low relief, with two tigers and three mon, a solid gold disk, a mother-of-pearl inlaid moon and stars mon, and a mitsudomo-e crest, all above a dense nashiji ground in sprinkled gold. The interior with mura-nashiji and hirame on a roiro-nuri ground.

SIZE 25.4 x 18.2 x 6.4 cm
 WEIGHT 624 g

Condition: Very good condition, some wear, few losses, natural age cracks, and light surface scratches.

Provenance: Property from the Collection of Drs. Edmund and Julia Lewis (old collector's label 'Lewis Collection 74' to base).

The overall design suggests that this suzuribako was made for the family of a high-ranking samurai.

A gunbai (war fan) was used during war by military commanders to signal their troops. A war fan of similar shape, once owned by Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), the first Edo period shogun, is illustrated in Masterpieces of the Tokugawa Art Museum, Nagoya, 1995, no. 34.

The mitsudomo-e symbol is closely associated with Shinto shrines, in particular those dedicated to Hachiman, the god of war and archery. Hachiman in Shinto cosmology and rituals, as for example at the Hakozaiki Shrine, is repeatedly connected with the number three.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800





19
**A FINE AND RARE GOLD LACQUER
 SUZURIBAKO DEPICTING A DRAGON, TIGERS,
 AND A LEOPARD (FEMALE TIGER)**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of rectangular form, bearing a gold nashiji ground, the overhanging cover with canted gold fundame edges, finely decorated in predominantly gold as well as silver and black takamaki-e and kirigane with a central lobed panel enclosing a fierce dragon clutching a tama pearl and writhing around craggy rockwork amid crashing waves, its scales neatly picked out in matte gold and silver lacquer while the pearl, horns, eyes, spikes, and flames are lacquered a lustrous gold, all against a sparser nashiji on roiro ground, the panel surrounded by thick reishi clouds with gold kirigane flakes.

The interior of the cover similarly decorated to depict a wildly roaring tiger seated on a rocky outcrop beside a mother tiger resembling a leopard and its young, the ground and swirling waves with nashiji and continuing onto the sides. The baseboard fitted with a rectangular tray similarly decorated with a craggy rock, blossoming plum, and bamboo leaves, as well as a panel holding the signed suzuri (inkstone) and metal suiteki (waterdropper)

incised with flowers. Note the skillful use of different kinds of nashiji and shades of gold, adding a particularly rich quality to this fine lacquer suzuribako.

SIZE 4 x 20.8 x 19.1 cm

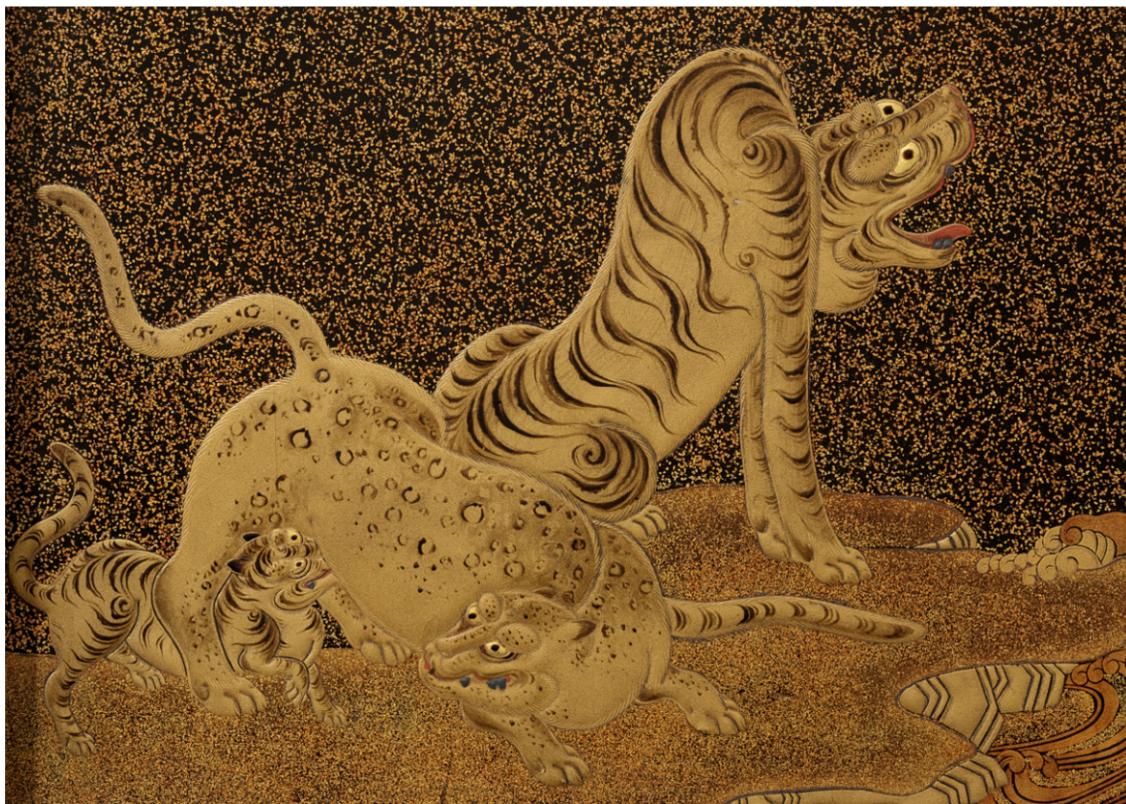
Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few light surface scratches.

Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a wood storage box.

The dragon and tiger are symbols of the two opposing and yet complimentary forces of yin and yang. The dragon, a mythical animal thought to reign over the heavens, stands for yang. The tiger, respected in ancient China as the mightiest of the wild beasts, stands for yin. They are often paired together in painting compositions but appear substantially less often in suzuribakos. Furthermore, the female tiger here is represented with spotted fur resembling a leopard. As the leopard is not native to Japan, artists had only seen the leopard's fur on occasion and had deduced it must belong to a female tiger.

Estimate EUR 5,000
 Starting price EUR 2,400





20

**AN EXTREMELY RARE LACQUER
PEACOCK-FORM MINIATURE SUZURIBAKO
DEPICTING KUJAKU MYOO**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely modeled in the form of an aureole, the minute writing box bearing a nashiji ground, the cover exquisitely decorated with aogai inlay and superbly lacquered in iro-e takamaki-e with a majestic peacock standing tall, supporting a large lotus pod and blossom on its back, its tail feathers enclosing a recessed circular panel lacquered with an image of a seated Kujaku Myoo holding various attributes, the interiors of nashiji with gold fundame edges, the ita (baseboard) decorated with two small wave borders and fitted with a suzuri (inkstone), fude (writing brush), and an inscribed gilt ink cake with dragon decoration.

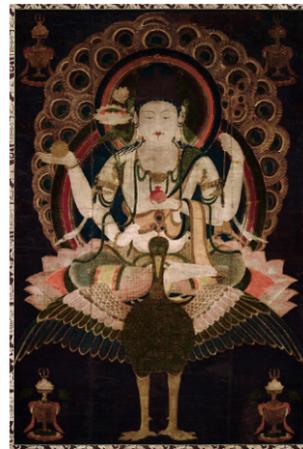
LENGTH 10.4 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, minuscule nibbles to edges.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 78.1677 (lacquered to the interior of the cover). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)



Kujaku Myoo (Skt. Mahamayuri vidyaraaja) is the deified form of a peacock that eats poisonous snakes and insects. He is represented here in compassionate form, an aspect unusual for Radiant Wisdom Kings. Kujaku Myoo is the principal deity of an esoteric Buddhist ritual based on the Kujaku Myoo sutras that is performed to bring or stop rain, and to ward off calamities.

A hanging scroll depicting Kujaku Myoo from the 12th century, Heian period, in the Tokyo National Museum

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related lacquer suzuribako depicting Kujaku Myoo, dated to the 19th century, of larger size, at Sotheby's, 16 September 2008, New York, lot 288 (sold for 17,500 USD).



Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400





21
SHISEN: A MAGNIFICENT LACQUER SUZURIBAKO DEPICTING THE GION MATSURI WITH YAMABOKO FLOATS

By Shisen, signed and sealed Shisen
 Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of rounded rectangular form, the rims of silver, the flush-fitting cover with a raised edge enclosing a slightly domed top, the roiro ground with superb iro-e takamaki-e, hiramaki-e, togidashi, kirikane, and e-nashiji to depict an elaborately decorated yamaboko float, its roof flanked by two dragon fish and surmounted by a tall pole with a naginata halberd sword partly obscured by clouds, beside a smaller cart with a figure wearing voluminous robes, carrying a sword tied to the back, holding a fish in one hand and a parasol in the other. The interior of the cover is decorated in masterful togidashi-e and e-nashiji against a roiro ground with two samurai. The matching baseboard similarly decorated with the top of the float's pole emerging from the clouds, showing a red banner and a flaming tama finial, and fitted with a rectangular signed suzuri (inkstone) and a silver suiteki (waterdropper) depicting a scroll and leaves. The base with sparse nashiji. The side of the cover signed and sealed SHISEN.

SIZE 2.8 x 23.5 x 16.4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with only very minor wear.

Provenance: According to notes included with the suzuribako, the present lot was gifted by the Japanese royal family to General Douglas MacArthur, who in turn gave it to his aid Colonel Courtney Whitney. The base with an old label, '244. 18th cent. writing box'. A filing card and a paper with the collector's notes on the present lot, its provenance, and lacquer techniques, accompany this lot. Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was an American military leader who served as General of the Army for the United States and oversaw the occupation of Japan from 1945 to 1951. As the effective ruler of Japan, he oversaw sweeping economic, political, and social changes. The Japanese subsequently gave MacArthur the nickname Gaijin Shogun ('The foreign Shogun'). Major General Courtney Whitney (1897-1969) was a lawyer and United States Army commander during World War II. Whitney remained close to MacArthur throughout the occupation of Japan and served as Chief of the Government Section at his headquarters. He accompanied MacArthur during the Korean War and received a Silver Star and



second Legion of Merit for his visits to the front. Whitney resigned from the army after MacArthur was removed from command in 1951.

The float depicted on the present suzuribako is one that appears in the Gion Festival which takes place annually during the month of July in Kyoto and is one of the most famous and largest festivals in Japan. This festival originated during an epidemic in 869 as part of a purification ritual (goryo-e) to appease the gods thought to cause fire, floods and earthquakes. The floats in the Yoiyama Parade are divided into two groups, the larger Hoko ("halberd") and the smaller Yama ("mountain") and are collectively called Yamaboko. The ten Hoko recall the 66 halberds or spears used in the original purification ritual, and the 24 Yama carry life-sized figures of Shinto deities, Buddhist bodhisattvas, and other historic and cultural figures.



The long sword hoko of Gion Matsuri, one of the three largest hoko in Japan, photographed in 2017

The character Shisen can be translated as 'Grass' and 'Spring, a natural wellspring' in this example. There are several lacquer artists with the same pronunciation Shisen; the maker of the present suzuribako is listed in Earle, Joe [ed.] (1995) *The Index of Inro Artists*, p. 244. **Considering the exceptional quality of the togidashi work, a painstaking lacquering process which involves applying several layers of lacquer which are then carefully polished to create a flat image, it is plausible that Shisen was related to the Shiomi Masanari line of lacquerers who excelled in the quality of their togidashi-e work.**

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related suzuribako by the master-lacquerer Shisen, dated late 17th to 18th century, depicting Seiobo, at Christie's, 16 March 2021, New York, lot 54 (sold for 40,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 12,000
 Starting price EUR 6,000





22
A BLACK AND GOLD LACQUER SUZURIBAKO WITH A SHORELINE LANDSCAPE AND RED-CRESTED CRANES

Japan, 19th century

Of rounded rectangular form, the overhanging cover with a roiro ground finely decorated in gold hiramaki-e, takamaki-e, and nashiji to depict an idyllic landscape with towering pine trees, craggy rockwork, dense grasses, calm waves, and wispy clouds. The interior of the cover decorated in gold, silver, red, and black takamaki-e to depict two cranes and three young amid flowers, leaves, and grass against a nashiji ground, the ita (baseboard) similarly decorated with leaves and fitted with an openworked tray holding two inscribed fude (writing brushes), a rectangular suzuri (inkstone), and a gilt-copper suiteki (waterdropper), and a gilt-copper suiteki (waterdropper) in the form of a ho-o bird. The edges of gold fundame, the exterior sides and base of roiro.

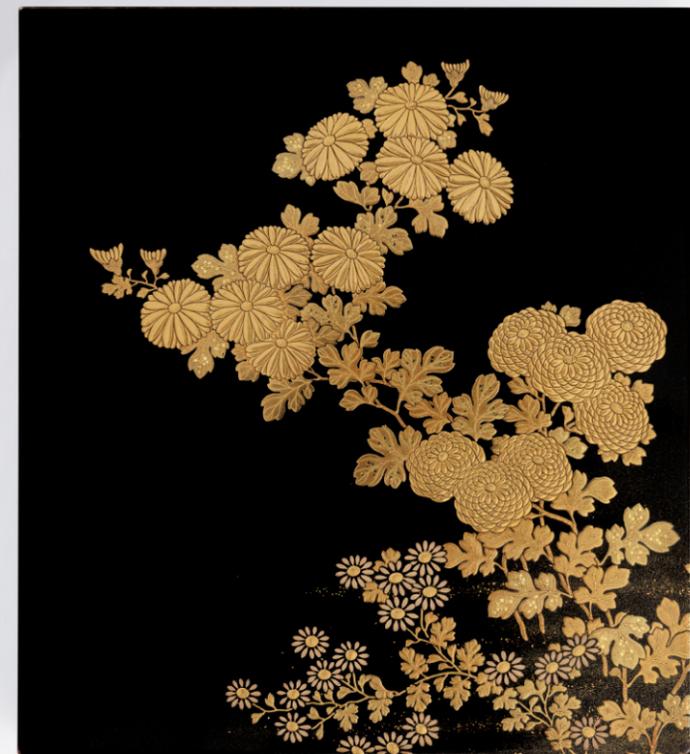
SIZE 5 x 26 x 23.7 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, the cover with expected age cracks with associated old repairs, few minuscule chips and tiny nicks.
 Provenance: German private collection.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



Detail image of the interior cover decorated with two cranes and three young



23
A FINE LACQUER SUZURIBAKO AND COVER WITH CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Japan, 19th century

The flush-fitting (inrobuta) cover with a roiro ground finely decorated in gold takamaki-e, kirigane, and nashiji with leafy chrysanthemums blowing in the wind above blossoming daisies, continuing over the sides, the interior of the cover with gold takamaki-e depicting flying cranes and butterflies against a sparse nashiji ground, the matching ita (baseboard) fitted with a silver rectangular suiteki (waterdropper) and a rectangular suzuri (inkstone), further with matching lacquered fude (writing brush) and an inscribed inkstick with floral decoration. With silver rims.

SIZE 3.4 x 16.5 x 14.8 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: British private collection.

With a black lacquered wood storage box.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare to a lacquer suzuribako with a similar design, dated 18th-19th century, sold at Christie's, Japanese Art & Design, 12 May 2010, London, lot 293 (sold for 10,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





24
**FUSEN: A FINE LACQUER
 SUZURIBAKO DEPICTING HERONS
 AT THE ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE**

By Fusen, signed Fusen with a kakashan
 Japan, late 18th to early 19th century, late Edo period (1615-1868)



Of rounded rectangular form, bearing a roiro ground, the overhanging cover finely decorated in gold and silver hiramaki-e and takamaki-e with kirigane and e-nashiji to depict the "floating" torii gate of the Itsukushima Shrine, a heron perched with one leg on the gate and preening itself as two other herons fly toward it over crashing waves, all amid gnarled pine trees, craggy rockwork, and thick clouds, with the sacred peaks of Mount Misen towering in the background. The interior of the cover is decorated with gold and colored takamaki-e and e-nashiji with aquatic life including seashells, clams, conches, and a starfish, the upper half entirely in nashiji. The baseboard of nashiji and fitted with brush holders, a suzuri (inkstone), a parcel-gilt silver suiteki (waterdropper) of rhomboidal shape incised with stylized plovers (hama chidori), and two gold lacquered fude (writing brushes).

SIZE 4.4 x 25 x 22.6 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, few minor age cracks, occasional light scratches.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a black-lacquered wood storage box with an old Japanese label.

Fusen (lit. 'a floating boat') is recorded by Wrangham, E. A. (1995) *The Index of Inro Artists*, p. 54.

Itsukushima Shrine, on Miyajima Island (also known as Itsukushima), is believed to have been first built during the reign of Empress Suiko (554-628). The warrior Taira no Kiyomori (1118-1181), however, is responsible for the shrine's present form. The Shinto shrine is best known for its "floating" torii gate.

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000





25
**SHOGAKU: A SUPERB LACQUER SUZURIBAKO
 DEPICTING AN AUTUMNAL SCENE
 WITH FALCON AND SPARROWS**

By Shogaku, signed Shogaku with seal Shogaku
 Japan, 19th century

Of rounded rectangular form with silver rims, bearing a lustrous chestnut-red ground, the flush-fitting cover superbly decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with kirikane and aogai inlay to depict a falcon perched on a cragged rocky outpost with leafy floral blossoms above a meandering stream, continuing over to the sides of the box. The interior of the cover similarly decorated and with red hiramaki-e and e-nashiji to depict two sparrows flying amid swirling clouds under a blood-red moon. The baseboard with gnarled branches bearing finely veined leaves and chestnuts with roughly textured shells, some of which have fallen, fitted with a rectangular inkstone (suzuri) and a silver waterdropper (suiteki) in the form of a teakettle, and signed SHOGAKU with a seal Shogaku.

SIZE 6.5 x 27.3 x 23.2 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Provenance: An important Austrian private collection, acquired during the first half of the 20th century, and thence by descent within the same family. Austrian private collection, acquired from the above.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

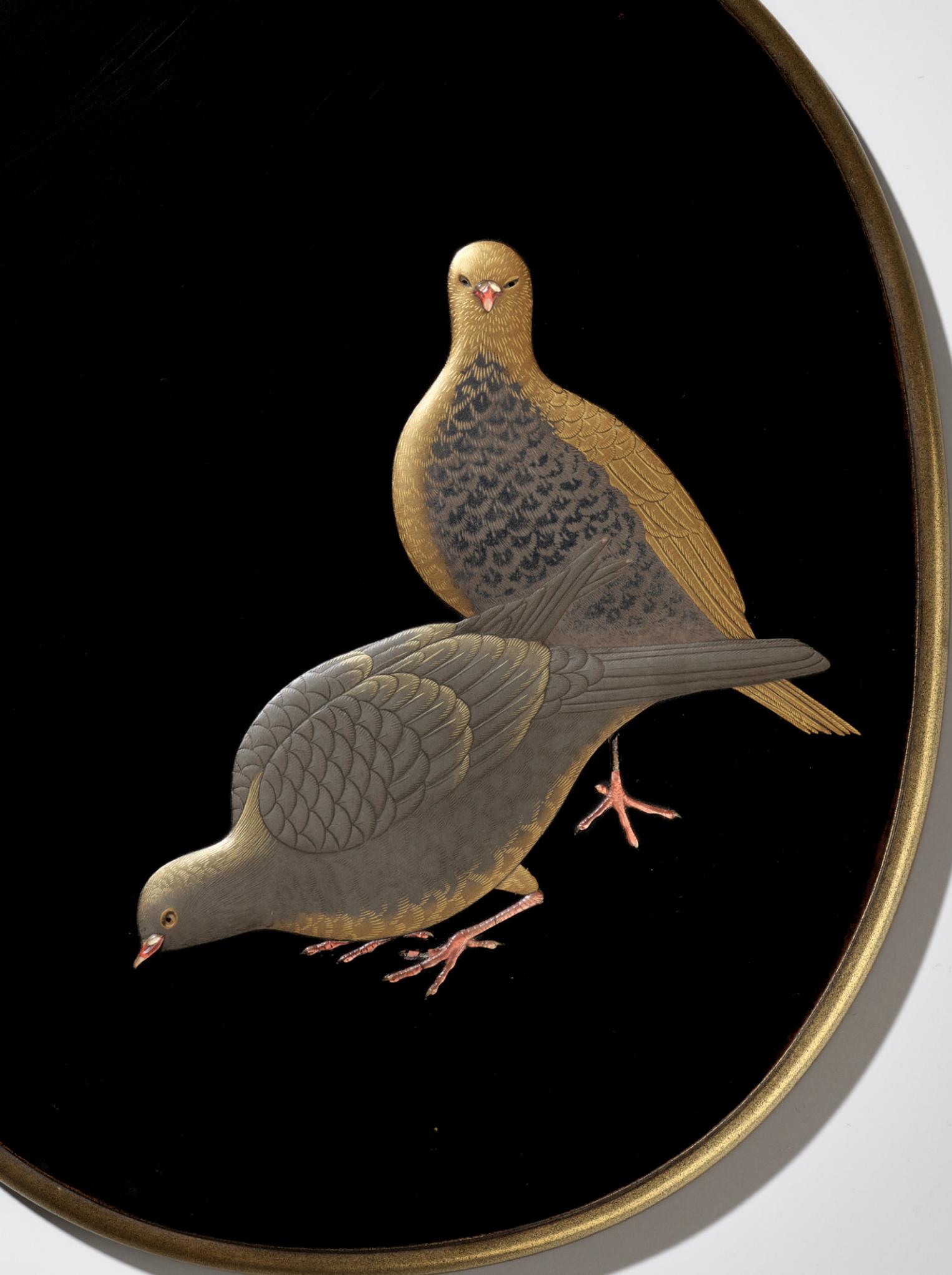
Compare a related suzuribako of similar quality and depicting an autumnal scene with falcon, sold at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 18 September 2007, New York, lot 238 (sold for 18,750 USD).



Estimate EUR 6,000

Starting price EUR 3,000





26
**A FINE LACQUER SUZURIBAKO
DEPICTING A PAIR OF PIGEONS**

Japan, early to mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of unusual oval form, the cover finely decorated in gold and silver takamaki-e depicting two pigeons, their feet and beaks inlaid in stained horn, the eyes inlaid in glass. The interior embellished with ferns in gold takamaki-e and with a silver patinated metal character 申 which is pronounced Shin and represents 神 (Kami). The detachable baseboard with a suzuri (ink-grinding stone) and a cloisonné enamel suiteki (water dropper) in the form of a teapot with a fitted silver mount.

SIZE 24.1 x 20.3 x 4.6 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, discoloration to the lacquer, minor losses to the inlays and rims, light surface scratches.
Provenance: British private collection. Two old labels to the silver mount of the suiteki.

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200





27
**A BLACK AND GOLD LACQUER
 NATSUME (TEA CADDY) WITH
 A WEEPING WILLOW (YANAGI)**

Japan, Showa period (1926-1989)

Of typical form with a flush-fitting cover, the exterior bearing a glossy roiro ground finely decorated in gold takamaki-e and kirikane to depict a willow tree growing from the base of the tea caddy to the top of the cover. The interior of roiro with gold fundame edges.

HEIGHT 7.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a wood tomobako signed by Tada Keikan (1935-?) and a Japanese pamphlet describing the accomplishments of the artist.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related black and gold lacquer natsume with a weeping willow by Hirata Shoichi, also dated Showa period, at Zacke, Fine Japanese Art, 27 May 2022, Vienna, lot 123 (sold for 1,643 EUR).



Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



28
**A BLACK AND GOLD LACQUER NATSUME
 (TEA CADDY)
 WITH BAMBOO**

Japan, Showa period (1926-1989)

The glossy roiro ground decorated in gold hiramaki-e, takamaki-e, and nashiji with bamboo stalks rising to a dense canopy of leaves on the cover, the interior of roiro with gold fundame edges.

DIAMETER 8.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With an inscribed wood tomobako.

Estimate EUR 800
 Starting price EUR 400

29
**A PAIR OF BLACK AND GOLD
 LACQUER CHOSHI (SAKE EWERS)
 AND COVERS**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Each of circular section, supported on three knob feet, with a flat cover, short spout, and loop handle, bearing a lustrous roiro ground finely decorated in predominantly gold hiramaki-e and takamaki-e with kirikane and e-nashiji to depict ho-o birds and leafy branches, the handle and spout decorated with leafy scrolling vines, the interiors of brown lacquer.

HEIGHT 17.2 cm and 17.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and expected minor age cracks.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With the original wood storage box with an old Japanese label.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related sake ewer, erroneously described as a yuto (a hot-water ewer), dated late 19th century, Meiji period, 25 cm high, at Christie's, 8 November 2006, London, lot 115 (sold for 2,400 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



30
**SADAATSU: A FINE ZESHIN-SCHOOL
SET OF FIVE LACQUER TANZAKU (POEM CARDS)
WITH FIVE FESTIVALS OF JAPAN**

By Sadaatsu, each tanzaku signed Sadaatsu
Japan, Tokyo, c. 1880, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Published: Grace Tsumugi Fine Art, Japanese Works of Art,
Exhibition 28 October – 20 November 2020, London, no. 27.

Each carved wood tanzaku (poem card) decorated in superb iro-e maki-e lacquer with designs associated with five festivals of Japan; from left to right: a buriburi toy for the New Year's celebration, a pair of dolls of an emperor and an empress for the Hinamatsuri festival in March, a samurai tachi sword for tango no sekku (boy's festival) in May, a half-opened curtain for the Tanabata star viewing festival in July and a water vessel for the chrysanthemum festival in September. Each signed to the lower right within a rectangular reserve SADAATSU.

SIZE 63.4 x 69.8 cm (including frame) and 7 x 38.5 (each tanzaku)

Condition: Excellent condition, only very minor wear to lacquer.
Provenance: Formerly with Grace Tsumugi Fine Art, London.

Each tanzaku set inside a silk brocade panel and framed within a black-lacquered frame behind plexiglass.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related framed panel with five lacquer tanzaku by Shibata Zeshin, sold at Bonhams, The Edward Wrangham Collection of Japanese Art, Part VI, 10 November 2015, London, lot 149 (**sold for 25,000 GBP**). Also compare to a set of two lacquer panels, one featuring the same tachi as the present lol, by Shibata Zeshin, sold at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 18 March 2014, New York, lot 488 (**sold for 12,500 USD**).



Estimate EUR 8,000
Starting price EUR 4,000





31
A SHIBAYAMA INLAID AND LACQUERED WOOD PANEL DEPICTING ANTHROPOMORPHIC FROGS

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The wood ground finely decorated in gold takamaki-e and hiramaki-e and neatly inlaid with mother-of-pearl, bone, some of which is stained green, and horn to depict two frogs by a stream amid blossoming flowers under the crescent moon partly obscured by thick clouds. One of the frogs is holding a chrysanthemum stem as if he was playing the flute, while the other approaches dragging another floral stem as if it was a club, about to strike the provocateur.

SIZE 23 x 22.5 cm (the panel) and 36.4 x 35.7 cm (incl. frame)

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, occasional light scratches, few losses to inlays.
 Provenance: French private collection.

With an old gilt wood frame with velvet padding.

The depiction of the frogs on the present panel is reminiscent of the Chōju-jinbutsu-giga scrolls from the 12th and 13th centuries. This famous set of four emakimono belonging to Kozan-ji temple in Kyoto are also referred to as Scrolls of Frolicking Animals in English and feature many anthropomorphic frogs.



A scene from the Chōju-jinbutsu-giga scrolls depicting frolicking frogs

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



32
EKIFUMI: A RARE AND FINE SHIBAYAMA INLAID LACQUER TRAY DEPICTING A KAPPA HUNT

By Ekifumi (Ekibun), signed Ekifumi
 Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of lobed (mokko) form with four short bracket feet and a silver rim, the interior bearing a kinji ground richly decorated in gold and brown hiramaki-e and takamaki-e with kirikane and e-nashiji, as well as inlays of aogai, lacquer, bone, wood, gilt-metal, and horn to depict a chaotic scene with a kappa emerging from a river, grabbing a terrified man's leg, attempting to drown him as he screams while further men run toward them carrying flaming torches under the direction of a samurai standing on a bridge above them, a helpless attendant by his side, a woman carrying firewood at the foot of the bridge, two torches have fallen to the ground, suggesting an even more horrific turn of events, all amid blossoming cherries and a willow, with huts, trees, and mountains in the background, framed by a band of various brocade patterns and floral designs below the rim, the signature EKIFUMI incised within a red-lacquer fan-shaped reserve, the base of nashiji.

LENGTH 24.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, occasional light scratches, few minor losses to inlays.
 Provenance: Dutch private collection, acquired at Mak van Waay, 25 February 1969, Amsterdam, lot 3340.

This artist of the Shibayama school appears to be unrecorded. However, like other Shibayama artists, his name uses the character Eki (Yasu).

A kappa is a reptiloid kami with similarities to yokai found in traditional Japanese folklore. Kappa can become harmful when they are not respected as gods. They are typically depicted as green, human-like beings with webbed hands and feet and a turtle-like carapace on their back. Their actions range from comparatively minor misdemeanors, such as looking up women's kimonos if they venture too near to water, to outright malevolence, such as drowning people and animals, kidnapping children, raping women and at times eating human flesh. According to folklore there are two ways to escape a kappa encounter unharmed. One is to feed it with a cucumber, which is the kappa's favorite food, and the other is to bow, as kappa are exceedingly polite creatures and find it difficult to resist returning the favor.

Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000



33

A RARE AND SUPERB SHIBAYAMA-STYLE INLAID GOLD LACQUER TABLE SCREEN WITH KYOSAI'S ANIMAL CIRCUS

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

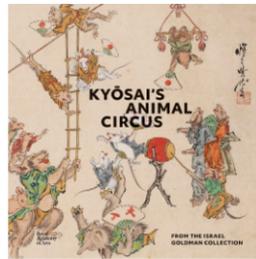
The screen comprising two hinged panels opening both ways so either side can be presented as the front, each panel divided into two sections framed in gold nashiji, kirigane, and fundame, the kinji ground inlaid with mother-of-pearl, horn, coral, tortoiseshell, and bone, the top sections depicting to one side a multitude of anthropomorphic, frolicking animals engaged in various pursuits and acrobatic feats, including two mice destroying a game of go, a cat pounding mochi, a bat fanning a teakettle, a rabbit serving tea, another hare smoking a pipe, a dog being lifted into the air by a bat, a group of rats playing musical instruments, and another attempting to steal a puppy's brocade ball, the lower sections decorated with scholar's objects including scrolls, vases, a censer, a figure of Kannon, a scepter, a flywhisk, and a scholar's rock.

The other side is similarly inlaid and further decorated in iro-e hiramaki-e and takamaki-e with a humorous and chaotic scene sparked by a hawk lifting a sarumawashi's helpless monkey as numerous bystanders, young and old, watch in shock and awe, surrounded by blossoming cherry trees and leafy chrysanthemums, above the two smaller sections similarly decorated with Mandarin ducks in a pond with various flowers.

HEIGHT 25.5 cm, WIDTH 25.3 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, the side with the frolicking animals with a few losses to inlays, the other side with absolutely no losses to inlays whatsoever.
Provenance: French private collection.

This remarkably detailed and very amusing screen has certainly been inspired by Kawanabe Kyosai's animal circus, which in turn was inspired by the famous Chōju-jinbutsu-giga scrolls (literally "Animal-person Caricatures"), dating to the 12th century and housed in the Toyo National Museum.



Animal circus by Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889)

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related Shibayama style gold lacquer two-panel screen by Masaaki, 23.7 x 21.5 cm, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 17 May 2018, London, lot 217 (sold for 11,250 GBP).



Estimate EUR 10,000
Starting price EUR 5,000



Buddhist Art

Lots 34 to 43





34
**AN EXCEPTIONAL AND MONUMENTAL
 GILT WOOD FIGURE OF SEISHI BOSATSU**

Japan, 16th-17th century, late Muromachi (1336-1573) to early Edo period (1615-1868)

Of yosegi-zukuri (joined-block) construction, the bodhisattva standing atop a lotus dais with finely carved petals raised on a compressed globular element with pierced foliate and floral dharmachakra designs supported on an elaborate tiered circular base decorated with scrolling vines, a wavy collar above lappets, and diapered chrysanthemums. His lowered left hand holding a small bouquet of lotus flowers, his raised right hand held in vitarka mudra (raigo-in). He is dressed in loose-fitting robes cascading in voluminous folds and billowing scarves, and richly adorned with an elaborate pierced necklace and head-ornament of applied copper alloy with pendent ornaments and ribbons. His serene face with finely painted downcast eyes below elegantly arched brows centered by an urna (byakugo) and full lips framed by a curled mustache, the hair piled up into a high chignon. The base inset with a flattened post surmounted by a large circular lotus aureole. The underside gives some further insight into the elaborate construction of this monumental figure.

HEIGHT overall 175 cm

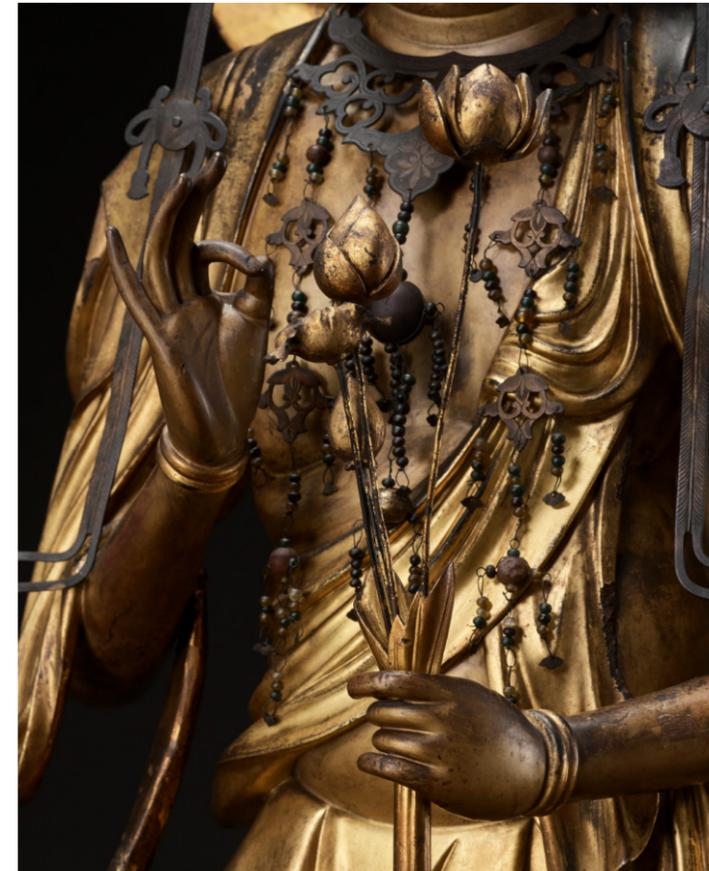
Condition: Old wear, the gilt and applied metal elements remarkably well-preserved, minor flaking, small nicks and chips, light surface scratches, minuscule losses, expected minor age cracks. Possibly minor old repairs and touchups. **Generally, in very good condition, commensurate with age, and better than most statues of this extremely rare size and period.**

Provenance: From the estate of Dorothy Robins Mowry (1921-2021), an American think tank executive and author who lived and worked in Tokyo between 1963-1971, where she held a position in the Cultural Programs Office for 8 years at the American Embassy. Among her most well-known books are *The Hidden Sun: Women of Modern Japan* and *Experiment in Democracy: The Story of U.S. Citizen Organizations in Forging the Charter of the United Nations*. Dorothy was a sought-after public speaker at national and international conferences, universities, community and non-governmental organizations, and radio and TV stations. She presented extensively throughout the U.S. and overseas in many countries including Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Switzerland, and Iran.



Dorothy Robins Mowry (1921-2021)

Seishi Bosatsu (Mahasthamaprapta), also known as the Bodhisattva of strength and wisdom, is recognized in Japan as one of the Thirteen Buddhas and associated with the Nio temple guardians. He is one of the oldest bodhisattvas and is regarded as powerful, especially in the Pure Land school, where he takes an important role in the Longer Sukhavativyuha Sutra. He is often depicted in a trinity with Amitabha (Amida) and Avalokiteshvara (Kannon), especially in Pure Land Buddhism. Seishi Bosatsu is rarely represented in Japanese sculpture outside of the Amida triad, where he is often depicted holding a lotus flower.



LITERATURE COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related gilt wood figure of Seishi Bosatsu, dated 18th century, 143.2 cm high, in the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Humboldt Forum, Berlin, reference number DLG 134-1996. Compare a related gilt wood figure of Seishi Bosatsu, dated 17th or 18th century, 81.3 cm high, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 2006.438a-e.



AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related gilt wood figure of Amida, dated to the early period and measuring 180 cm, sold at Christie's, Art D'Asie, 10 December 2020, Paris, lot 65 (sold for 52,500 EUR).



Estimate EUR 60,000
 Starting price EUR 30,000



35
**A RARE STONE STELE OF NYOIRIN KANNON,
 DATED 1708 BY INSCRIPTION**

Japan, dated 1708

Well carved seated in royal ease on a draped lotus throne, the right hand raised in Shiyui-so supporting the tilted head, the left hand resting on the left thigh, wearing loose-fitting robes opening at the chest, the face with a contemplative expression, the hair arranged in a high chignon, backed by a tall mandorla.

The left side with a carved inscription: 寶永五戊子年霜月四日 "Hoei go tsuchinoe-ne toshi shimotsuki yokka" [The 4th day of the Eleventh month (the month of frost), in the Hoei 5th year (1708), in the year of tsuchinoe-ne]. The opposite side opposite with a female devotee's holy name 'Risho Myotei Shinnyo 理照妙諦信女', center of the base further with 'Nakazawa Shi 中沢氏'

HEIGHT 93 cm

Condition: Good condition, commensurate with over 300 years of age. Extensive wear, minor losses, signs of weathering and erosion, few structural cracks.

Provenance: From the collection of Sir Ernest Ridley Debenham, thence by descent in the same family. A letter from John G. Ayers of the Victoria & Albert Museum, addressed to "Miss M C Debenham" (Ernest Debenham's daughter Margaret), dated 14 August 1970, detailing his opinion of the present lot and translation of the inscriptions, with the letterhead of the Victoria & Albert Museum, accompanies this lot. Sir Ernest Ridley Debenham, 1st Baronet (1865-1952), was an English businessman who owned the famous department store chain Debenhams. He was responsible for the considerable expansion of the family's retail and wholesale drapery firm between 1892 and 1927. He was also a pioneer in the dairy industry. John G. Ayers formed the Far Eastern Department at the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1970 and served as President of the Oriental Ceramics Society between 1984 and 1986. He authored countless books on Chinese and Japanese works of art, including the famous Baur Collection, and was widely recognized as one of the world's leading specialists in the field.



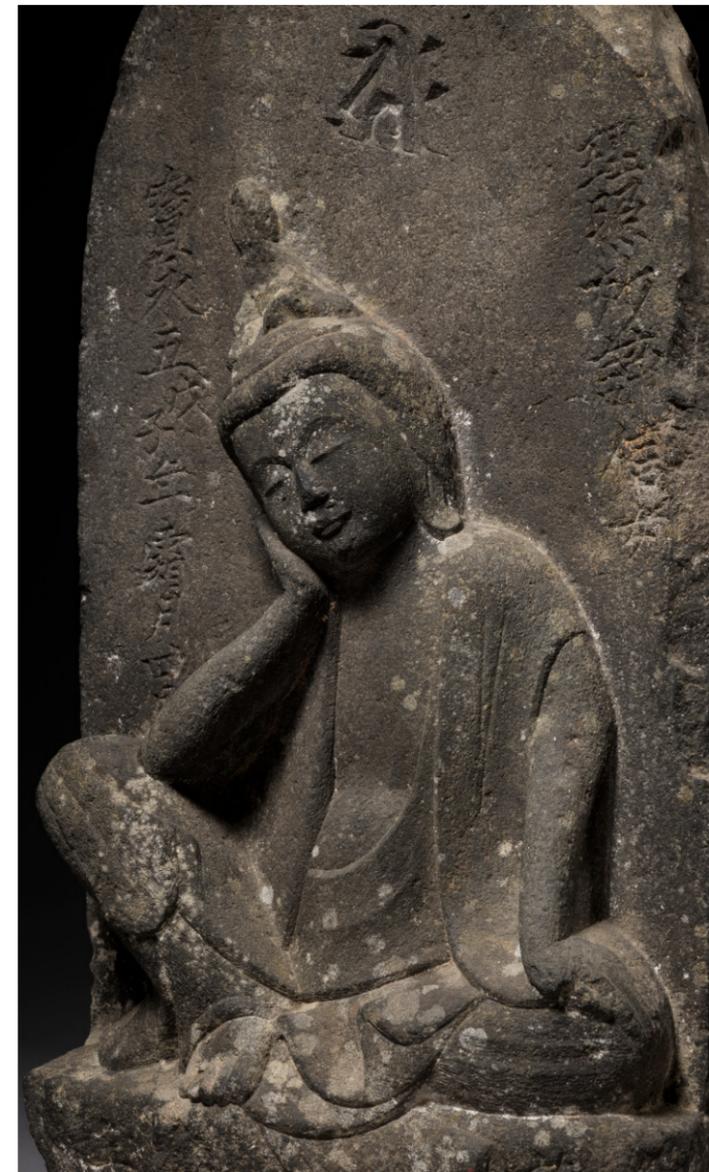
Sir Ernest Ridley Debenham (1865-1952), 1930



A letter from John G. Ayers of the Victoria & Albert Museum

This stele depicts Nyoirin Kannon (Skt: Cintamani Chakra Avalokiteshvara), a form of the bodhisattva Kannon whom Buddhists believe 'listens to the voices of the world' and to whom they look for the granting of wishes. Nyoirin Kannon is usually depicted with six hands holding various attributes, but in this rare stele is carved with two hands.

The surname of the devotee was Nakazawa 中沢, whose holy Buddhist name was Risho Myotei shinnyo, which literally means "A Buddhist female lay believer Risho Myotei". Risho Myotei 理照妙諦 literally means "Logic, Enlighten, Wondrous, Truth".



MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related memorial stone depicting a two-armed Nyoirin Kannon, dated 1671 by inscription, in the Horniman Museum & Gardens, museum number nn19126. Compare a related stone stele of a six-armed Nyoirin Kannon, dated 1680 by inscription, in the Victoria & Albert Museum, accession number A.125-1920.



Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000



36
**A LARGE GILT AND LACQUERED
WOOD FIGURE OF AMIDA NYORAI**

Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period
(1615-1868)

Seated in dhyanasana on a separately carved double lotus throne with beaded edge supported on an elaborate tiered hexagonal base lacquered in gold, red, and green and carved with lotus, clouds, and key-fret. His hands are held in raigo-in (vitarka mudra). He is wearing a loose-fitting robe draped over both shoulders, opening at the chest, and cascading in voluminous folds, his chest and face lacquered brown over gold, the serene face with downcast eyes below elegantly arched brows, his full lips framed by a finely painted mustache, his hair arranged in tight curls with a domed ushnisha, backed by a large halo carved in openwork with scrolling clouds around a central lotus design, the separately carved halo inset at the back of the lotus throne.

HEIGHT 38 cm (the figure) and 90 cm (total)

Condition: Very good condition with some wear to gilt and lacquer, expected minor age cracks, minuscule nicks, light scratches, few minor losses.

Provenance: Dutch collection.

The sculpture represents Amitabha, known in Japanese as Amida Nyorai, or the Buddha of Limitless Light. The downcast gaze directed towards the onlooker below is emblematic of the infinite compassion with which his name is synonymous. Amitabha reigns over the Western Pure Land, a paradise to which anyone is welcomed if they faithfully and sincerely incant his name. This place of salvation became central to the Jodo [lit. Pure Land] sect of Buddhism. Propounded in 1175 by the monk Honen, the accessibility of such tenets of redemption allowed this form of Buddhism to proliferate across the nation and feudal classes of Japan. Often depicted with an elaborate mandala, the boat-shaped halo is said to remind his followers that he serves as a guide for them to cross the ocean of suffering which contaminates the living.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related gilt-lacquered wood figure of Amida Nyorai, dated to the 18th century, Edo period, 77 cm high overall, at Christie's, Art d'Asie, 14 December 2016, Paris, lot 87 (sold for 68,500 USD).



Estimate EUR 20,000
Starting price EUR 10,000



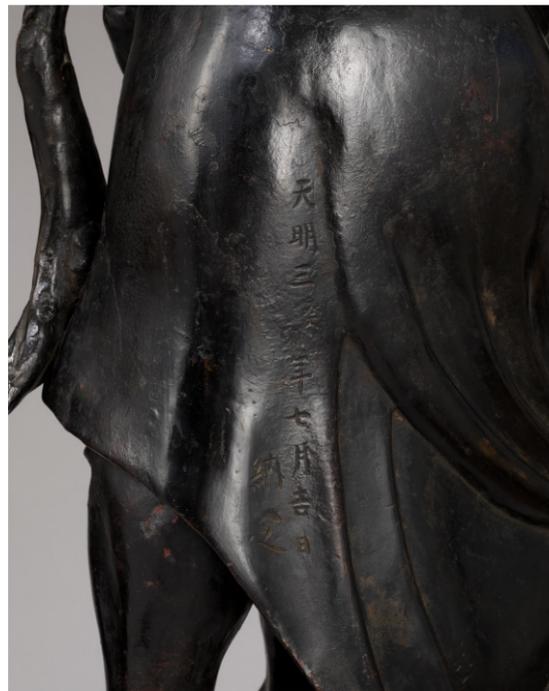


37
**A PAIR OF MONUMENTAL
 BRONZE NIO GUARDIANS,
 DATED 1783 BY INSCRIPTION**

Japan, dated 1783

Each standing atop a naturalistically cast rockwork base raised on a finely carved lacquered wood stand supported on four stout cabriole legs. The open-mouthed Misshaku Kongo holds a vajra in his raised left hand, his other hand lowered with the fingers stretched out, while the close-mouthed Naraen Kongo thrusts his right hand forward with the palm facing forward, in a protective gesture akin to the abhaya mudra, while his left hand is clenched into a fist. Both guardians wearing short skirts and billowing scarves, their muscular bodies with prominent ribs, their faces with wrathful expressions, their hair and brows neatly incised, their topknots with foliate headdresses. Each statue is inscribed to the reverse, 'Tenmei san, mizunoto-u toshi, kichijitsu, kore wo osaku' (This is donated on an auspicious day, in Tenmei 3 (corresponding to 1783), in the year of mizunoto-u).

HEIGHT each 117 cm (excl. base) and 157.5 cm (incl. base)
WEIGHT 92 & 96 kg



'This is donated on an auspicious day, in Tenmei 3 (corresponding to 1783), in the year of mizunoto-u'

Condition: Very good condition with old, attractive wear; casting flaws, minor nicks, light scratches, small dents. The wood stands with some wear, minor nicks and scratches, expected age cracks. Provenance: US private collection.

The inscription on the present nio statues records that they were donated in Tenmei 3 (1783), a fateful year during which the devastating Tenmei eruption on Mount Asama in central Honshu occurred, exacerbating the Great Tenmei famine. It is plausible that an ardent patron commissioned and donated the pair to protect an important temple from further calamity during a particularly difficult time.

Nio or Kongorikishi are two wrathful and muscular guardians of the Buddha standing today at the entrance of many Buddhist temples in East Asian Buddhism in the form of frightening wrestler-like statues.



Two nio who stand in the left (ungyo) and the right (agyo) of a gate (sanmon) at Zentsu-ji, Nara, Japan

They are dharmapala manifestations of the bodhisattva Vajrapani, the oldest and most powerful deity of the Mahayana Buddhist pantheon. According to Japanese tradition, they traveled with Gautama Buddha to protect him. Within the generally pacifist tradition of Buddhism, stories of dharmapalas justified the use of physical force to protect cherished values and beliefs against evil. Nio are also seen as a manifestation of Mahasthamaprapta, the bodhisattva of power that flanks Amitabha in Pure Land Buddhism and as Vajrasattva in Tibetan Buddhism. They are usually a pair of figures that stand under a separate temple entrance gate, usually called Niomon in Japan.

Guhyapada (Japanese: Misshaku Kongo) is a symbol of overt violence: he wields a vajra mallet and bares his teeth. His mouth is depicted as being in the shape necessary to form the 'ha' or 'ah' sound, wherefore he is also known as Agyo in Japan. **Narayana** (Naraen Kongo) is depicted either bare-handed or wielding a sword. He symbolizes latent strength, holding his mouth tightly shut. His mouth is rendered to form the sound 'hūm', 'heng', or 'un'. He is also referred to as Ungyo in Japanese due to his closed mouth.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

The two nio figures closely resemble a pair of wood guardian figures, dated to the late Kamakura period, early 14th century, each 86.4 cm high including the base, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession numbers 64.292.1 and 64.292.2.



Estimate EUR 50,000
 Starting price EUR 24,000





38
**AN IMPRESSIVE PAIR OF
 LARGE SCROLL PAINTINGS
 DEPICTING NIO GUARDIANS**

Japan, c. 1700, early Edo period
 (1615-1868)

Each boldly and expressively painted with ink and watercolors on silk, mounted as a hanging scroll with a silk brocade frame. Each depicting one of the two Nio guardians, Agyo with open mouth and Ungyo with closed mouth, respectively, well detailed with muscular bodies, flowing robes, and billowing garlands, and adorned with a necklace, bracelets, and armlets, one holding a Buddhist tuning fork and the other a thunderbolt scepter. Their faces show fierce, almost grotesque expressions marked by large bulging eyes and furrowed brows.

SIZE 127.5 x 75.6 cm (image, each)
 and 192 x 91.5 cm (total, each)

Condition: Good condition with some wear, soiling, creasing, few minuscule losses, the mounting with some wear and small tears.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With an old black-lacquered wood storage box.



Nio or Kongorikishi are two wrathful and muscular guardians of the Buddha, found at the entrance of many Buddhist temples in East Asian Buddhism in the form of frightening wrestler-like statues. They are dharmapala manifestations of the bodhisattva Vajrapani, the oldest and most powerful of the Mahayana Buddhist pantheon. According to Japanese tradition, they traveled with Gautama Buddha to protect him. Within the generally pacifist tradition of Buddhism, stories of dharmapalas justified the use of physical force to protect cherished values and beliefs against evil. Nio are also seen as a manifestation of Mahasthamaprapta, the bodhisattva of power that flanks Amitabha in Pure Land Buddhism and as Vajrasattva in Tibetan Buddhism. They are usually a pair of figures that stand under a separate temple entrance gate commonly called Niomon in Japan. The right statue is called Misshaku Kongo (or Agyo) and has his mouth open, and the left statue is called Naraen Kongo (or Ungyo) and has his mouth closed. Similar to Alpha and Omega in Christianity, they signify 'everything'.

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000

39

**A RARE EMBROIDERED SILK
WALL HANGING OF KANNON**

Japan, 18th century, early to mid-Edo period, the brocade frame
Meiji period (1868-1912)

The shubutsu (Buddhist embroidery) finely embroidered with silk and gold couched threads on silver-gray silk damask and mounted to a later brocade frame, depicting Kannon, the Bodhisattva of compassion, standing on a lotus base above swirling clouds, holding a lotus flower in his left hand, the golden body dressed in a long flowing robe and adorned with jewelry, his face with a serene expression and downward gaze, centered by an urna, the head surmounted by an elaborate crown, with a silver radiating halo, the sun and moon to his upper left and right.

SIZE 187 x 93 cm (the hanging), 138 x 65.1 cm (the image)

Condition: Good condition, minor wear, loose threads, some staining and soiling, few small tears, minor losses. The brocade frame with loose threads.

Provenance: A private collector in Vienna, acquired from Galerie Zacke, Vienna, circa in 1985. Thence by descent in the same family.

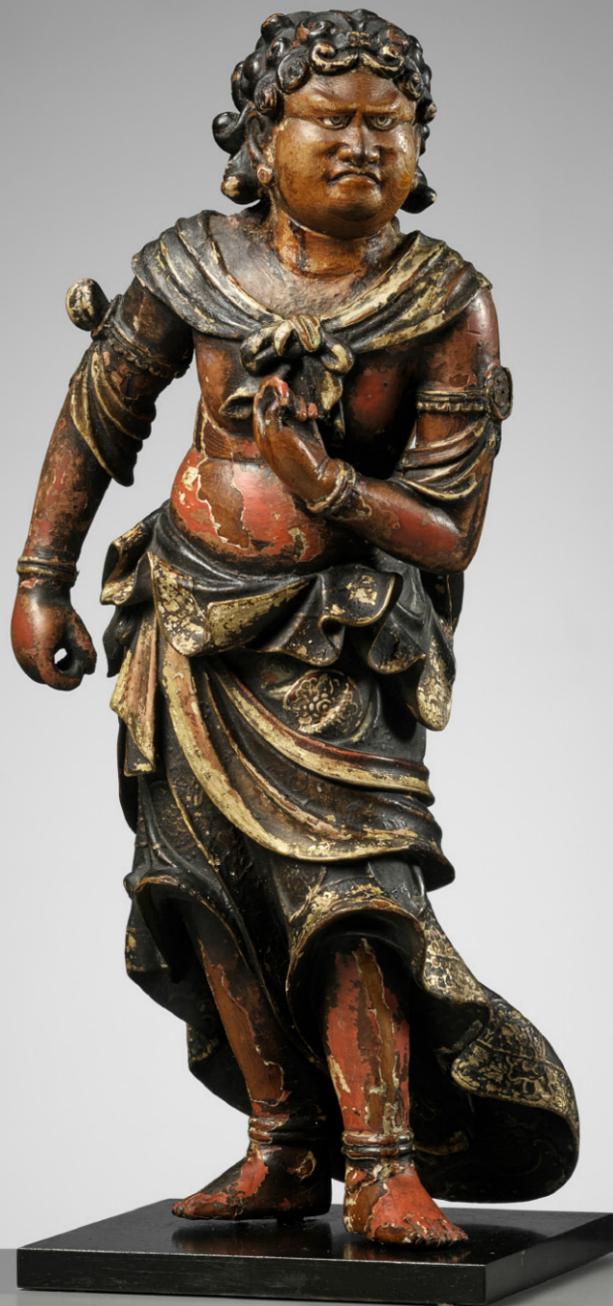
LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related silk embroidery panel of Kannon, 1780-1840, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, accession number T.208-1958. Compare a closely related silk embroidery panel of Kannon, 18th century, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, accession number T.191-1968.



Estimate EUR 8,000
Starting price EUR 4,000





40
**A POLYCHROME WOOD
FIGURE OF SEITAKA DOJI**

Japan, 16th-17th century, Muromachi (1333-1573) to early Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in polychrome pigments and gilt over gesso, the guardian attendant standing, wearing a long flowing robe with deeply carved folds, foliate hems, and floral roundels, a scarf draped over his shoulders, adorned with armbands, bracelets, and anklets, his face with a stern expression, the eyes inlaid in reverse-painted crystal, the curled hair tied at the front.

HEIGHT 30 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear and small losses to pigments and gilt, few minuscule nicks, occasional light scratches.
Provenance: French private collection.

Mounted on an associated metal base of square form.

Seitaka Doji is one of the two boy attendants of Fudo Myo-o (the Immovable or Unshakable One). Sculptural triads of these figures exist from the late Heian period (794-1185). In these triads, Seitaka Doji has a troll-like appearance, which contrasts with the placid features of his fellow attendant, Kongara Doji.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related lacquered wood figure of Seitaka Doji, together with Kongara Doji, 34.3 cm high, dated ca. 1350, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 2018.17.1, .2.



**AUCTION
COMPARISON:**

Compare a related lacquered wood figure of Seitaka Doji, dated 14th century, 17.1 cm high, at Christie's, 25 April 2017, New York, lot 6 (sold for 5,625 USD). Compare a closely related polychrome wood figure of Seitaka Doji, dated to the Muromachi period, 16th century, 30.8 cm high, at Bonhams, 22 July 2020, New York, lot 988 (bought-in at an estimate of 4,000-5,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 3,000
Starting price EUR 1,500

41
**KANO TESSAI: A RARE WOOD
NYOI SCEPTER WITH ONI HEAD**

By Kano Tessai (1845-1925), signed Tessai followed by the artist's idiosyncratic kakihan
Japan, Nara, early 20th century

Finely carved, the elegantly curved shaft with a plain scroll terminal and a fierce oni head detailed with bulging eyes, bushy brows, a wide mouth revealing tongue and teeth flanked by sharp fangs, and a broad nose, the sides and back of the shaft and some details lacquered red, the wood of attractive grain and color, purposely worn to simulated old age. The front of the scepter is inscribed Seija ('right and wrong'), referencing a moral precept known as Seija zen'aku ('right and wrong & good and evil'), while the back shows the signature TESSAI followed by the artist's characteristic kakihan.

LENGTH 39.3 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with attractive simulated wear, possibly few minuscule nicks.
Provenance: French private collection.

Kano Tessai (1845-1925) came from a Gifu family and started his life as a Buddhist priest, though his father instructed him in the art of carving. He studied Chinese literature and drawing and was a professor at Tokyo art school in 1872. He was also on the examining committee for investigating the ancient art of Japan and subsequently went to Nara where he engaged in the reproductions of old objects of art, such as the present example. Although only few scepters by Tessai are known, he clearly greatly enjoyed and found inspiration in this type of object, as evidenced by a Chinese Ming-dynasty bamboo scepter once owned by him, see Bonhams, The Zuiun Collection, 15 March 2017, New York, lot 5004.

**AUCTION
COMPARISON:**

Compare a bamboo scepter by Kano Tessai at Bonhams, 11 September 2019, New York, lot 546 (sold for 2,040 USD).

Compare a dried-lacquer scepter by Ito Tesseki, a student of Kano Tessai, at Bonhams, 15 March 2017, New York, lot 5030 (sold for 10,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



42
**HOKKYO SESSAI: AN EXTREMELY
RARE BAMBOO ZUSHI (PORTABLE SHRINE)
WITH STAG ANTLER MOUNTS**

By Hokkyo Shima Sessai (1820-1879), signed Sessai
Japan, Echizen, mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of oval section, raised on three incised T-form feet, the mounts of stag antler, the hinged doors carved with rectangular panels enclosing a foliate cross design with a stylized flowerhead in stag antler in the center, below swirling clouds, the interiors of the doors incised with dragon roundels above a cross-hatched panel. The front of the zushi is further carved with scrolling vines and angular scroll continuing over to the reverse, the doors framed by key-fret borders, below two confronting baku. The reverse signed SESSAI within a stag antler-inlaid rectangular reserve.

HEIGHT 17 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few tiny natural age cracks, few minuscule nicks.
Provenance: British collection.

Hokkyo Shima Sessai (1820-1879) was an excellent carver who earned the honorary title of Hokkyo during his lifetime and served the lord of the Echizen clan. His work is scarce as he died at a relatively young age.

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200





43
AN EXCEPTIONAL AND VERY RARE 'LOTUS' ZUSHI SCEPTER ENCLOSED WITH BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI

Japan, 19th century

Well carved in openwork, much of the surface embellished with masterful ukibori pimples, as several stems bearing lotus buds and leaves, the lotus pod to the base with fine stag antler inlay, the original cord tied around a loose stag antler ring below a stag antler-inlaid bud, the lotus bud terminal carved with scrolling clouds in high relief leading up to a hinged petal opening to reveal a minutely carved figure of Buddha Shakyamuni, a small stag antler peg serving as a hook to close the door to this naturalistic zushi (portable shrine).

LENGTH 50 cm

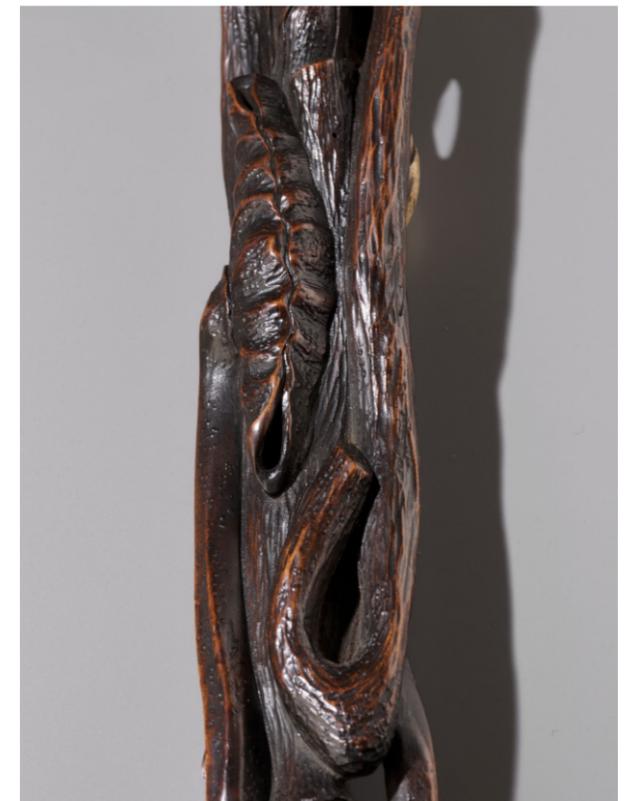
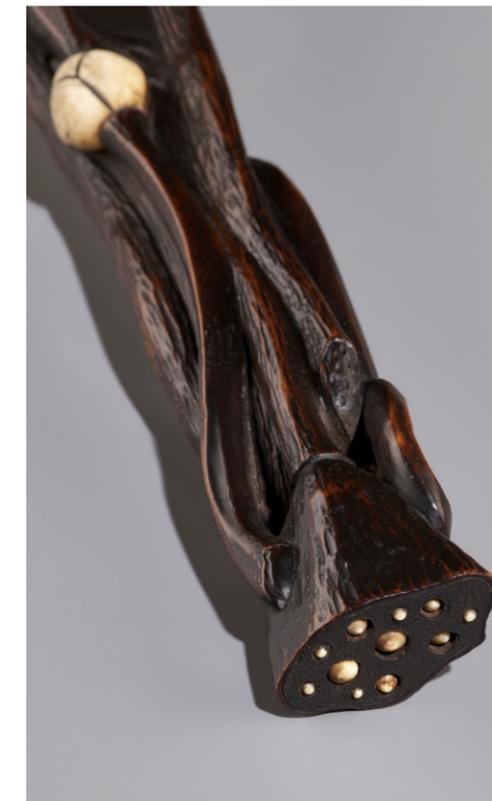
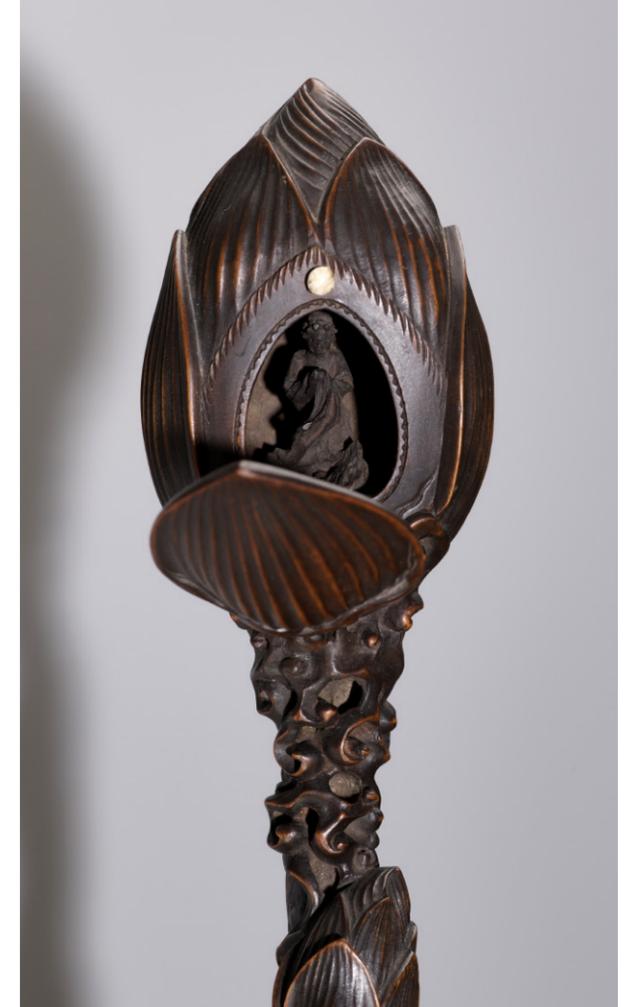
Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a related scepter, also depicting lotus, attributed to Nakanishi Yosetsu (1841-1923), sold at Bonhams, The Zuiun Collection, 15 March 2017, New York, lot 5022 (sold for 21,250 USD).



Estimate EUR 4,000
Starting price EUR 2,000



Metalwork

Lots 44 to 90





44

MUNEKAZU: AN EXCEPTIONALLY RARE AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT IRON JIZAI OKIMONO OF A HUMAN SKELETON

By Tomiki Isuke I (Art name Munekazu, 1853-1894), signed Munekazu
Japan, c. 1860-1880

Ingeniously constructed from well over 100 separately cast and hammered iron components, depicting the 206 human bones in a scale of 1:4 precisely, altogether meticulously jointed to present a fully articulated skeleton of unique anatomical accuracy, the skull furthermore finely incised in every detail including the fontanelle and with a hinged jaw opening to reveal a remarkably detailed interior. The signature MUNEKAZU is neatly incised on a rectangular silver plaque inlaid to back of pelvis.

HEIGHT 38.5 cm
WEIGHT 820.7 g

Condition: One arm has been replaced, otherwise in superb condition with a fine, naturally grown patina overall, some old wear and traces of use, presents exceptionally well.

Provenance: An old private estate in Philadelphia, USA. A British private collector, acquired from the above. Exhibited by Kevin Page Oriental Art at the 2019 LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair in London, United Kingdom, winner of the LAPADA Legends award in the Sculpture category.

With a fitted metal-mounted plexiglass stand.

Jizai okimono, known as Ingenious movable sculptures are the invention of Japanese metalsmiths trained in the manufacture of samurai armor. The Myochin family of armorers is credited with the first sculptures of this type in the eighteenth century. In relative peacetime, the demand for arms and armor, except for display purposes, had slowed. To meet the changes in demand, the Myochin expanded their repertoire into metalwork of a decorative and symbolic nature. Some see these articulated models as the culmination of the armorer's skill and imagination. Known as jizai okimono, (lit. 'free decorative object'), these intricate sculptures are a unique genre of Japanese sculptural art. Popular subjects for jizai okimono included insects, fish, crustaceans, snakes, and even dragons.

The present skeleton, however, is not only an outstanding example of such objects, but also the only known example of its kind. It was made by Tomiki Isuke I (1853-1894), who used the art name Munekazu and is sometimes called 'Myochin Munekazu', although his affiliation with the Myochin school remains unclear. At his studio in Kyoto he tutored Takase Kozan (1869-1934) and Muneyoshi (Tanaka Tadayoshi; ?-1958). Although clearly working in the Myochin style, visible in the exceptional quality of his jizai okimono, the artist also enjoyed some independence from the school, allowing him to create unique sculptures such as the present lot, during the second half of his career.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

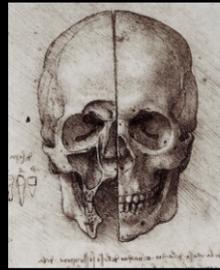
Compare an iron jizai okimono of a snake by Muneyoshi (Tanaka Tadayoshi, d. 1958), a student of Munekazu, 162.9 cm long, at Christie's, 18 April 2018, New York, lot 111 (**sold for 250,000 USD**). Compare also an iron jizai okimono of an eagle by Itao Shinjiro (1842-1911), another artist who worked independently from the Myochin school, at Christie's, 27 November 2018, Hong Kong, lot 3825 (**sold for 6,700,000 HKD**). Note that while these are some of the highest results achieved for mid-to-late 19th-century jizai okimono, **neither the snake nor the eagle are unique, unlike the present skeleton.**



Estimate EUR 250,000
Starting price EUR 120,000

MEMENTO MORI

Memento mori (Latin for 'remember that you die') is an artistic or symbolic trope acting as a reminder of the inevitability of death. The concept has its roots in the philosophers of classical antiquity and appeared in art and architecture from the medieval period onwards. The most common motif is a skull, often accompanied by one or more bones, or a complete skeleton. Often this alone is enough to evoke the trope, but sometimes other motifs such as a coffin, hourglass and wilting flowers were added to signify the impermanence of human life.



The Skull, by Leonardo da Vinci, 1489



Riding with Death, by Jean-Michel Basquiat, 1988; one of the artist's last paintings

From Leonardo to Basquiat, the most important artists of the modern world were fascinated by the Memento Mori trope.

The same applies to the talented artist of the present lot Tomiki Isuke I (1853-1894) who like other Japanese artists drew influence from these earlier European 'Memento Mori' motifs. Some important examples include Kuniyoshi's famous triptych depicting the Monster Skeleton or Kawanabe Kyosai's Skeleton Musicians. Kyosai (1831-1889), a contemporary of the artist Tomiki Isuke I (1853-1894), in particular became fascinated by skeletons featuring them in several of his artworks, extending from orthodox pictures founded in the Kano-style to humorous and satirical pictures, full of wit, in the manner of ukiyo-e artist Kuniyoshi.



A remarkably realistic skeleton depicted in Utagawa Kuniyoshi's woodblock print, c. 1845, sold at Sotheby's, Fine Japanese Art, 5 November 2019, London, lot 23 (sold for 200,000 GBP)

In Tibetan Buddhism, the skull mask of Citipati is a reminder of the eternal cycle of life and death. Furthermore, there is a mind training practice known as Lojong, the 'Four Contemplations to Cause a Revolution in the Mind'. The second of these four is the contemplation on impermanence and death. In particular, one contemplates that:

All compounded things are impermanent,
The human body is a compounded thing,
Therefore, death of the body is certain,
The time of death is uncertain and beyond our control.

There are a number of classic verse formulations of these contemplations meant for daily reflection to overcome our strong habitual tendency to live as though we will certainly not die today.



The Citipati as depicted in a painting in the Gelugpa Monastery, Nepal



Painting of playful skeletons moving severable limbs, by Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889), British Museum, Museum no. 1946,0209,0.48

In Japanese Samurai culture the influence of Zen Buddhist contemplation of death on indigenous culture can be gauged by the following quotation from the classic treatise on samurai ethics, the Hagakure:

"The Way of the Samurai is, morning after morning, the practice of death, considering whether it will be here or be there, imagining the most slightly way of dying, and putting one's mind firmly in death. Although this may be a most difficult thing, if one will do it, it can be done. There is nothing that one should suppose cannot be done."

In the annual appreciation of cherry blossom and fall colors, hanami and momijigari, it was philosophized that things are most splendid at the very moment just before their fall, and to aim to live and die in a similar fashion.





45
**A RARE AND IMPRESSIVE IRON
JIZAI OKIMONO OF A HAWK**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Naturalistically rendered, the eyes inlaid in gilt with black pupils, the predatory bird perched in a portrait-like pose, the leg joints, wings, beak, and tail meticulously crafted from numerous movable segments.

LENGTH 30 cm, HEIGHT 26 cm
WEIGHT 1,234 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, some expected age-related stiffness to the joints.

The art of creating lifelike figures of animals in metal, known as jizai okimono, which developed during the Edo period, is an example of outstanding Japanese craftsmanship. Meticulously constructed with hammered plates of iron, these articulated figures were greatly sought after for decorative use. They were placed in alcoves alongside pieces of porcelain, pottery and hanging scrolls, and were the object of entertainment and discussion. Popular subjects for jizai okimono included insects, fish, crustaceans, and even dragons. **Jizai okimono depicting birds are extremely rare.**

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare with an articulated hawk by Myochin Kiyoharu in the collection of the Tokyo National Museum, illustrated by Ito Yoshiaki et al., in the NHK Exhibition Catalogue, Commemorating the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan Arts of the East and West from World Expositions, 1855-1900, Paris, Vienna and Chicago, 2004, p. 080, no. I-191; and another articulated iron hawk (unsigned), in a private collection in France, illustrated by Harada Kazutoshi, *ibid.*, p. 058, no. 19.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related kusshin jizai okimono model of a hawk, attributed to Itao Shinjiro, dated circa 1894, 29 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 16 May 2013, London, lot 563 (**sold for 121,250 GBP**). Compare to a closely related iron jizai okimono of a hawk, measuring 23 cm, sold at Woolley & Wallis, Japanese Works of Art, 27 July 2021, Salisbury, lot 358 (**sold for 43,000 GBP**).

Estimate EUR 60,000
Starting price EUR 30,000





46
**A RARE MYOCHIN SCHOOL
 IRON ARTICULATED JIZAI OKIMONO
 OF A SCHACHIHOKO (DRAGON FISH)**

Japan, 19th century, late Edo period (1615-1868) to early Meiji period (1868-1912)

The shachihoko with a fully articulated body finely constructed of hammered plates joined inside the body, the mouth open to reveal a moveable flat tongue and sharp fangs, the body with spiky fins, the head applied with long, curling whiskers, elaborate horns and spines, and the eyes of shakudo embellished with gilt. With an associated root wood base.

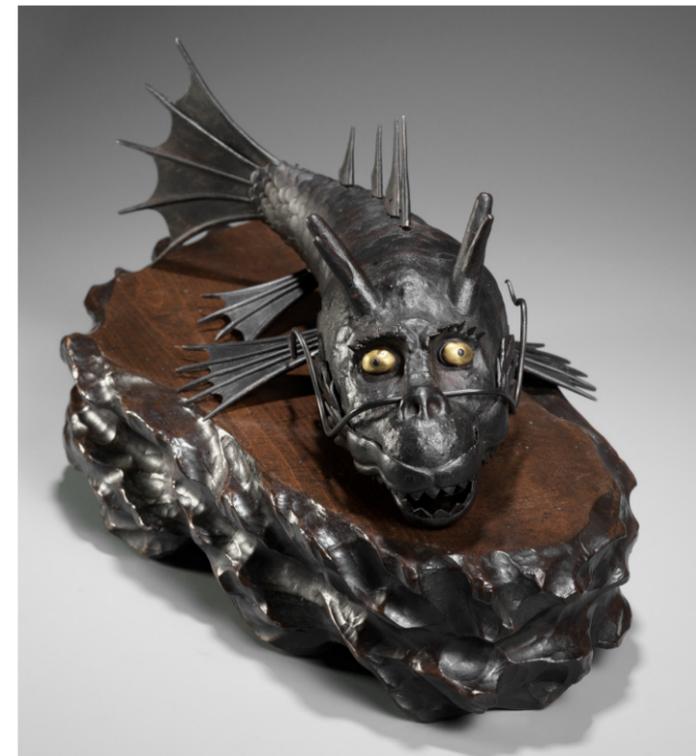
LENGTH 41.5 cm (the dragon fish), 49.5 cm (the base)
 WEIGHT 4,076 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor expected wear and encrustations, some joints slightly stiffened.

This inventive creature is a dolphin-like sea beast called a shachi or shachihoko. With its moving jaws, spine and fins, it is a bit of fantasy come to life.

It is not clear why articulated animals and insects were first made in the workshops of armor makers in the early eighteenth century. The dragon model in the Tokyo National Museum made by Myochin Muneaki in 1713 is the earliest dated example. Typically, the artists of articulated figures made in this period were members of the Myochin school, prominent armor makers particularly skilled at forging and tempering steel. By the middle of the Edo period, Japan was at peace after centuries of civil war. The demand for arms significantly decreased, influencing many Myochin-school metalsmiths to turn to ornamental sword guards and arms, tea utensils and decorative objects in iron. Some of the articulated figures may have evolved from ornaments intended for helmets and other accoutrements.

Literature comparison: Tokyo National Museum, ed., *Jizai okimono: Honmono no yo ni jiyu ni ugokaseru hebi ya konchu* (Articulated [iron] figures: Movable representations from nature from snakes to insects) (Tokyo: Tokyo National Museum, 2008), pl. 4 and fig. 3.



AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related iron articulated model of a dragon fish by Muneyoshi, 18th-19th century, 30.5 cm long, at Christie's, *An Inquiring Mind: American Collecting of Japanese and Korean Art*, 22 April 2015, New York, lot 94 (sold for 185,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 60,000
 Starting price EUR 30,000



47
**AN EXCEPTIONALLY RARE INLAID
 IRON MINIATURE KODANSU (CABINET)
 WITH TURTLES AND CRANES**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly decorated in gold and silver takazogan and hirazogan, the hinged door and short sides with "floating" turtles framed by a stream and aquatic plants below and thin clouds above, the cover with two cranes flying in the sky as well as the setting sun and further clouds, the cover with a fitted gilt silver handle and the door with a silver knob, opening to reveal three silver drawers with iron front panels with silver-mounted handles and inlaid in the same manner as the exterior with turtles and carved with water currents, the interior of the door with a gold plate engraved with a man surrounded by ducks in a barren forest.

SIZE 9.6 x 9.3 x 6.4 cm
 WEIGHT 851.5 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and casting irregularities.
 Provenance: French private collection.

While miniature kodansu (display cabinets) were commonly made during the Meiji period, the most popular examples crafted from lacquer, inlaid ivory, or damascened iron, **no comparable examples in sparsely inlaid iron are recorded in private or public collections, making this exceptionally well-crafted piece extremely rare.**

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



48
**AN IMPORTANT IMPERIAL
 SILVER 'TANG MIRROR' BONBONNIERE
 WITH GOLD KIKUMON**

Japan, 1915, early Taisho period (1912-1926)

The bonbonnière silver box in the shape of an eight lobed tang mirror, rising from an openworked foot, the lid centered by a gold kikumon flanked by two majestic ho-o birds (phoenixes) worked in masterful high relief and standing on swirling clouds and issuing bands. With a seal mark Gyokuya kinzo (respectfully made for the Imperial house).

This bonbonnière was specifically made for the 1915 Tokyo Banquet, after the enthronement of Emperor Taisho. The eight-lobed mirror form with facing phoenixes, connotes an ancient tie to nobility. This harks back to the Tang dynasty (618-907) of China, which was a formative influence on the Japanese nation.

LENGTH 6.4 cm
 WEIGHT 115.4 g



Condition: Very good condition, minor surface wear.

Provenance: From the Collection of Gustaf Wallenberg, thence by descent in the same family. Gustaf Wallenberg (1863-1939) was a Swedish businessman, diplomat, and active politician. His father André Oscar Wallenberg was the founder of Stockholm Enskilda Bank (today SEB, and grandfather of Raoul Wallenberg). After a career in the Swedish Navy, he turned to the business world and was active in improving the transoceanic shipping industry, which came in handy in 1908 when he successfully negotiated with the Qing court in Beijing about a friendship, trade, and navigation treaty. The collection was acquired between 1906 and 1918 when Wallenberg was the Swedish Envoyé in Tokyo. From 1907 Wallenberg was accredited for Beijing and came to spend time in both countries as the Swedish Ambassador. Wallenberg lived in China during a tumultuous period, when a lot of precious items entered the market and the golden era of collecting Chinese works of art started in Europe.



**Gustaf
 Wallenberg
 (1863-1939)**



The exterior and interior of the Temple Court, the Wallenberg residence in Japan

For further information on Japanese imperial silver bonbonnières see Arts of Asia Journal, Susan Tosk and David Cole, Japanese Imperial Silver Bonbonnières: Elegance in the Palm of Your Hand – The Nancy and Robin Markbreiter Collection, spring 2022, no. 9. Another bonbonnière from the same series as the present lot is illustrated in fig. 9.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related imperial silver bonbonnière sold at Hindman, Japanese and Korean Works of Art, 25 March 2022, Chicago, lot 13 (sold for 2,813 USD).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



49
TAKASAKI KOICHI: A MASTERFUL ENAMELED SHIBUICHI VASE DEPICTING LILIES

By Takasaki Koichi, signed Takasaki Koichi
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The ovoid body supported on a short foot and rising to a short waisted neck with flared rim. The silver-patinated ground applied in high relief with gilt-wire and bright enamels with white and orange lilies borne on long, leafy stems. The mouth with a silver inset and the foot of silver as well. The signature to the base worked in gold wire and red enamel TAKASAKI KOICHI.

HEIGHT 18.8 cm
 WEIGHT 908 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Takasaki Koichi is known as one of the most prominent metal-artists of the Meiji period and he exhibited a pair of enameled silver vases with peonies and poppies at the International Exposition held in Paris in 1900, illustrated in the catalog *Fine Arts Magazine*, extra issue No. 2. Today, however, only very few pieces by Koichi are known to exist.

Lilies have long been admired for their slender stems and large flowers, their Japanese name 'yuri' comes from the word meaning to sway, as the lily does in the breeze. There is a Japanese saying used to describe a woman's beauty, 'She sits and stands a peony and walks a lily'.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related enameled shibuichi vase by Takasaki Koichi, 34.5 cm high, illustrated in *Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1995, Metalwork Part I, no. 64*. Compare a related enameled silver vase by Takasaki Koichi, 27.9 cm high, in the collection of the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, accession number JLS.10279.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related enameled and metal-inlaid iron incense burner by Takasaki Koichi, 21 cm high, at Christie's, 2 October 2017, Hong Kong, lot 60 (sold for 812,500 HKD).

Estimate EUR 20,000
 Starting price EUR 10,000





50
**A SUPERB SILVER FILIGREE AND CLOISSONNÉ
 ENAMEL VASE DEPICTING A COCKATOO**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The globular body supported on a spreading foot with scalloped lower edge and rising to a slender waisted neck with garlic mouth. The sides with two circular panels decorated in gold, silver, copper, and shakudo takazogan to depict a preening cockatoo perched on the branch of a blossoming plum tree to one side and a dragonfly about to land on some foliage to the other. The panels surrounded by intricate filigree silver work with butterfly decoration. The foot, shoulder, and mouth further decorated with butterflies, lotus, paulownia, and floral scroll in cloisonné enamel.

HEIGHT 20.2 cm
 WEIGHT 248 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear and minimal casting irregularities.

Cockatoos are a member of the parrot family native to Australia, New Guinea, and Indonesia. They have a distinctive crest they can raise and lower at will and are highly intelligent. Cockatoos make popular, if demanding, pets. In Meiji period Japan, the cockatoo was an expensive high-status pet, as they were much prized for their beauty and entertainment.

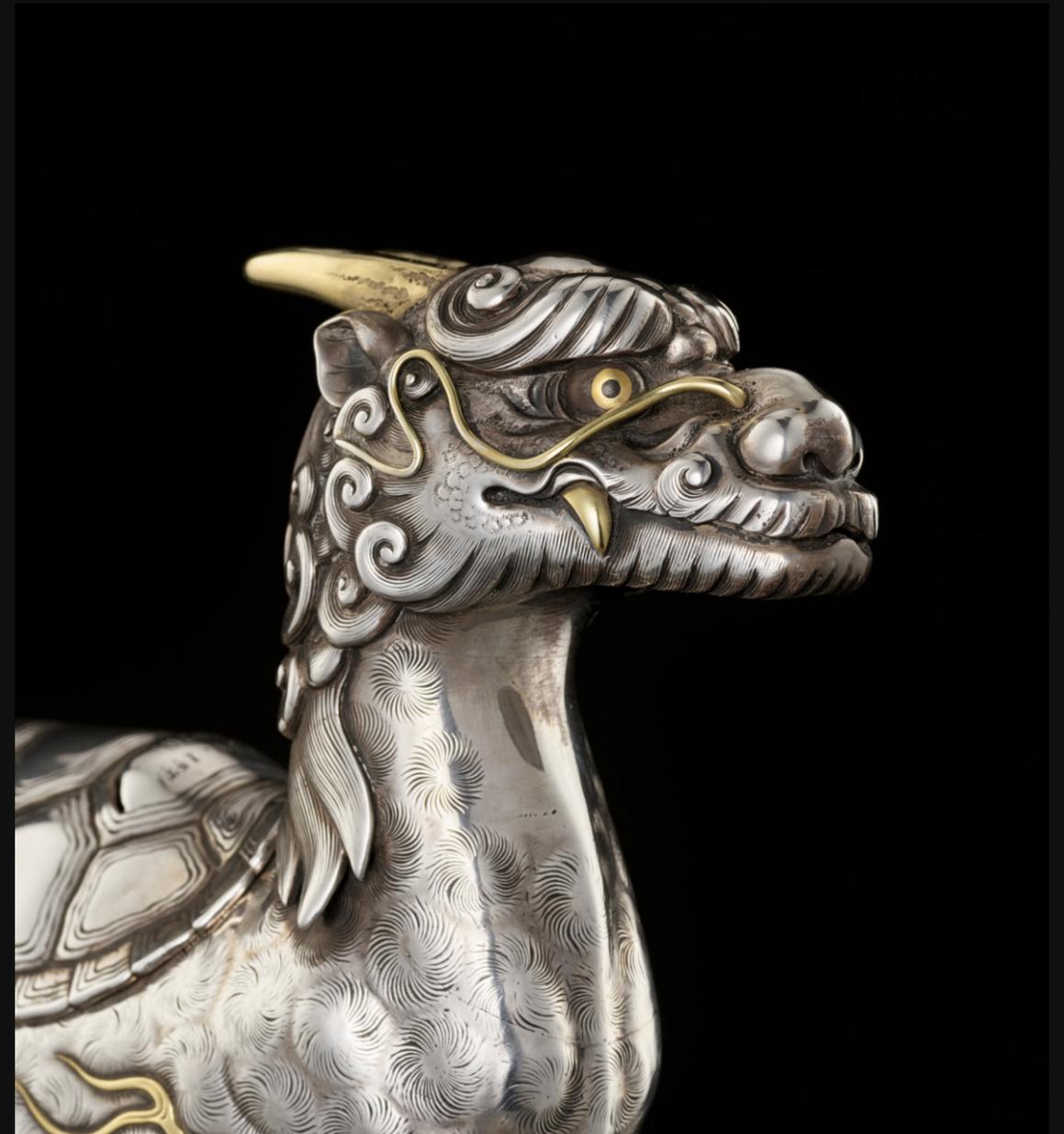
AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related shibuichi, silver filigree, and cloisonné enamel koro and cover by Hiratsuka Mohei, dated to the Meiji period, 11.5 cm high, at Bonhams, 6 November 2012, London, lot 511 (sold for 27,500 GBP). Compare a related silver filigree and cloisonné enamel vase, also dated late 19th century, Meiji period, 28.5 cm high, at Bonhams, 17 May 2021, New York, lot 612 (sold for 8,287 USD).



Estimate EUR 15,000
 Starting price EUR 8,000





51
**A RARE AND EXCEPTIONAL
PARCEL-GILT SILVER KORO (INCENSE BURNER)
IN THE FORM OF A SUISEI**

Japan, c. 1870, early Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly cast, the two-horned beast standing proudly with one front leg slightly raised, its fur with neatly incised whorls, the scrolling mane and bushy tail also finely incised, the horns, eyes, fangs, whiskers, and flames are gilt, the pupils in shakudo, the pierced cover cast in the form of the beast's characteristic carapace, incised with a dating inscription in English, 'Jan. 1st 1870'.

LENGTH 19.7 cm, HEIGHT 16.8 cm
WEIGHT 584 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and traces of use, the tail probably separately cast.
Provenance: British collection.

The suisei is a rarely depicted mythical beast with much the same appearance as a kirin, with the exception of a tortoise carapace on its back.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a related silver koro in the form of a duck, signed Tsuneaki, dated late 19th century, Meiji period, at Christie's, 8 December 2016, London, lot 117 (**sold for 18,750 GBP**).



Estimate EUR 15,000
Starting price EUR 8,000



52
**JOMI EISUKE II: A MASTERFUL
 SILVER OKIMONO OF A CHIN PUPPY
 WITH DRUM**

By Jomi Eisuke II (1839-1900), sealed Jomi Eisuke
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly cast as a Chin puppy sitting obediently with one paw slightly raised and resting on a shakudo den-den daiko drum decorated with silver, gold, and copper inlays and showing a mitsudomo-e symbol, the dog's piebald fur ingeniously highlighted with shakudo inlays, its gold-inlaid collar well carved and tied with a copper-inlaid bow at the back of its neck. The underside cast with a gold seal JOMI EISUKE within a circular reserve.

With an associated gold-lacquered wood stand supported on four feet and finely decorated with foliate scroll, dating from the same period.

LENGTH 13.2 cm
 WEIGHT 654 g (excl. stand)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear. The wood stand with some wear, nicks, and old repairs to feet.

The Japanese Chin, also known as the Japanese Spaniel, is a dog acknowledged for its importance to Japanese nobility. The dogs have a dot or a line on their forehead, which is associated with the touch of Buddha. While most believe that the source breed for the Japanese Chin originated in China, the route by which the Chin arrived in Japan is a widely debated topic. One story claims that the dogs were given to the Japanese royalty in AD 732 as gifts from the rulers of Korea. Others maintain that they were given as gifts to the Empress of Japan as early as the middle of the sixth century or by the seventh century.



Alexandra of Denmark with her Japanese Chin, named Punch, originally painted by Sir Luke Fildes in 1893

Literature comparison:

For a related silver koro in the form of a Pekinese dog, see Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1995, Metalwork part II, no. 122.



Estimate EUR 25,000
 Starting price EUR 12,000





53
**HANEHIRO: A FINE SILVERED
 BRONZE OKIMONO OF A HAWK**

By the Hanehiro workshop, signed Hanehiro
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The hawk perched on a naturalistically cast parcel-gilt bronze stand in the form of gnarled and twisted branches, its head lowered and wings outstretched in preparation for flight, the plumage neatly incised, the shibuichi beak with gilt cere and pierced nares, the eyes inlaid with amber glass, the gilt ring-punched feet with raised scales, the long curved claws with darker patination, the underbelly marked HANEHIRO.

HEIGHT 62 cm (incl. stand), WIDTH 53 cm (the wing-span)
 WEIGHT 3,298 g (the hawk) and 5,897 g (the stand)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

The hawk is traditionally a symbol of nobility and wealth, due to the expense of training and caring for the birds.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a silvered-bronze model of an eagle by Masatsune, 64 cm wide, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 5 November 2020, London, lot 288 (sold for GBP 11,312). Compare a silvered model of a hawk by Masatsune, also with a separately cast gilt-bronze tree-stump stand, 42.6 cm high, at Christie's, 20 October 2000, New York, lot 189 (sold for USD 10,575).



Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000



54

**SANMI: A MASTERFUL
SILVER OKIMONO OF A DRAGON
WITH ROCK CRYSTAL SPHERE**

By Gyokuryuken Sanmi (art name Kazumi), signed Kazumi with kakihan
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Powerfully cast, the ferocious three-clawed dragon standing atop a rootwood base, its sinuous body precisely rendered with myriad scales and a spiked spine and mane, the eyes picked out in gilt, a separately cast gust of flames emanating from the beast's jaws holding a rock crystal sphere, signed to the dragon's underbelly within a shaped reserve KAZUMI with a kakihan (artist's monogram)

LENGTH 31 cm, HEIGHT 32.5 cm (incl. base)
WEIGHT 3.5 kg (excl. base and sphere)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Gyokuryuken Sanmi (art name Kazumi) was an exceptional artist renowned for his masterful silver metal work during the reign of the Meiji emperor.

The dragon is associated with a wealth of legend and symbolism in old Japan, signifying both the holy nature of Shinto and the wisdom of Buddhism. Representations of the dragon are found from the earliest historical period, wall paintings in the stone tomb chambers of the Kofun period (4th-7th centuries) together with tiger, phoenix, and griffin. In Shinto mythology the deity Ryujin is a dragon who lives under the sea and bears a jewel that controls the tides. In esoteric Buddhism, the dragon and the sword indicate the rope and double-edged sword of Fudo Myo-o.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

For a silver ornament of a dragon and crystal ball see Joe Earle, Splendors of Meiji, Treasures of Imperial Japan, Masterpieces from the Khalili Collection (St. Petersburg, Fla.: Broughton International, Inc., 1999), pl. 135. Also compare to a closely related, yet larger bronze model of a dragon in similar pose, by the Miyao company, Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1995, Metalwork part II, no. 108.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related silver model of a dragon by Gyokuryuken Sanmi, signed Kazumi with kakihan, lacking the crystal ball and base, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 19 March 2013, New York, lot 2358 (sold for 128,500 USD). Compare a related silver dragon with rock crystal sphere by Gyokuryuken Sanmi, also dated late 19th century, Meiji period, 16.8 cm high, at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 16 March 2021, lot 37 (sold for 62,500 USD).



Estimate EUR 80,000
Starting price EUR 40,000





55
**AN IMPRESSIVE BRONZE OKIMONO OF RYUJIN
 PRESENTING A ROCK CRYSTAL SACRED JEWEL
 (YASAKANI NO NAGATAMA)**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The Dragon King of the Sea wearing dragon armor with finely incised scales and a powerfully cast head with fierce expression, tied to his waist over his loose-fitting robes with billowing sleeves, deep folds, and foliate incised hems, holding in both hands the stand supporting his rock crystal sphere which he uses to raise and lower the tides. His face with an intense expression marked by his shakudo-inlaid gilt-ringed eyes, furrowed brows, and spiky beard. His robes, hair and beard are blowing as if he is standing in the midst of a great storm. Mounted on a stepped square base.

HEIGHT 43 cm (excl. stand) and 46 cm (incl. stand)
 WEIGHT 11.6 kg

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear.



The rock crystal sphere held by Ryujin represents the sacred jewel Yasakani no Nagatami, one of the Three Sacred Treasures, the imperial regalia of Japan. They represent the three primary virtues: valor (the sword), wisdom (the mirror), and benevolence (the jewel). This depiction of the Dragon King of the Sea presenting the jewel appears in woodblock prints of the 19th century as well as two celebrated sculptural groups (see Literature comparison).



A woodblock print by Totoya Hokkei (1780-1850) depicting Ryujin presenting tama jewels

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a bronze group in the Khalili collection depicting the sea-god Haneakarutama (essentially, the purely Japanese equivalent of Ryujin) presenting the jewel to Susanoo, illustrated in Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1995, Metalwork part II, no. 98. For a related version depicting Takenouchi no Sukune and Ryujin by Oshima Joun and others, made for the Second Naikoku Kangyo Hakurankai (Domestic Industrial Exposition) of 1881, see Oliver Impey and Malcolm Fairley, The Dragon of the Sea, Japanese Decorative Art of the Meiji Period from the John R. Young Collection, Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1991, cat. no. 11.

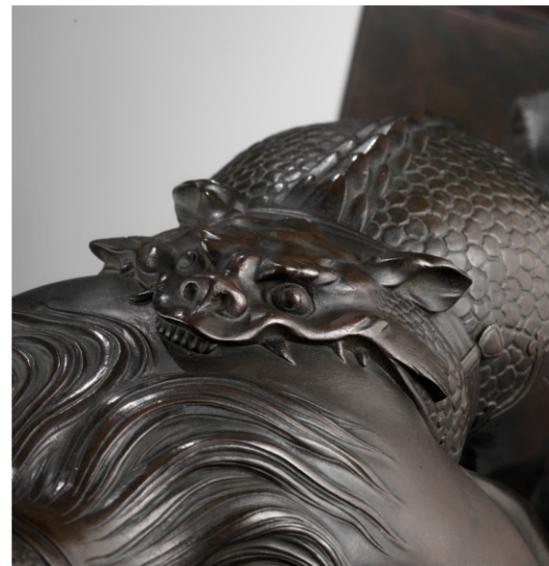


AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related bronze figure of Ryujin presenting the sacred jewel, 164.5 cm high, at Christie's, 20 June 2001, London, lot 101 (sold for 23,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 12,000
 Starting price EUR 6,000





56
**AN IMPRESSIVE BRONZE OF TWO
ONI HOLDING A CRYSTAL BALL,
ATTRIBUTED TO SANO TAKACHIKA**

Attributed to Sano Takachika, unsigned
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The two grinning demons executed in parcel-gilt bronze and supporting a large crystal ball. One oni has a copper-brown patina while the other is crafted from shakudo. Both wear gilt bracelets at their feet and arms as well as loincloths embellished with gilt details. With an associated burlwood base.

HEIGHT 21.7 cm (incl. crystal ball), HEIGHT 13.5 cm (the bronze only), HEIGHT 24.3 cm (total)
WEIGHT 2,292 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few light surface scratches.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:
Compare a near-identical bronze okimono of a single oni holding a crystal ball by Sano Takachika, illustrated in The Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Japanese Art - Treasures of Imperial Japan, Metalwork Part II, 1995, no. 123.



Estimate EUR 8,000
Starting price EUR 4,000



57
**HIDEMITSU: A LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE
BRONZE BOWL WITH TWO DRAGONS**

By Hidemitsu (Shuko), signed Hidemitsu kansei
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The large revolving bowl with deep rounded sides rising to a galleried twelve-sided rim decorated with pierced diapered manji designs, surmounted by two ferocious dragons with sharp claws, finely incised scales, ridged spines, long horns, and spiked manes, the larger dragon with a small rock crystal tama clutched in its claws, the exterior carved with crashing waves, all supported on a large separately cast base with finely cast and openworked crashing waves, the top of the base cast in the center with the signature HIDEMITSU kansei.

HEIGHT 49.5 cm, WIDTH 45 cm
WEIGHT 23.9 kg

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, few minuscule nicks, one beard hair of the larger dragon with a minor old repair.
Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 10,000
Starting price EUR 5,000





58
**YOSHITANI: A MASSIVE AND
 HIGHLY UNUSUAL BRONZE JARDINIÈRE
 DEPICTING A NEST OF RATS**

By Yoshitani, signed Dai Nihon Yoshitani sei and isho toroku juken
 Japan, late 19th-early 20th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Heavily cast as a pile of large rats with neatly incised long-haired fur and long tails, the animals further detailed with bulging eyes, deeply incised whiskers, and round ears, the base pierced with six holes. With an associated, finely carved and fitted wood stand supported on five elegantly curved legs with scroll-form feet. With two seal marks underneath reading Dai Nihon YOSHITANI sei [made by Yoshitani in Great Japan] and isho toroku juken [registered holder of patented designs]. The artist's name 美谷 can be pronounced Mitani, Bikoku, and Yoshitani, which literally means "Beautiful Valley".

WIDTH 37 cm, HEIGHT 38 cm (incl. stand)
 WEIGHT 10.2 kg (excl. stand)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

In Japan, rats do not have the negative connotations they sometimes do in the Western world. The rat was the first animal to arrive at the New Year's greeting and so is the first of the Zodiac animals; it represents prosperity of descendants and social success.

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





59
**HIDEMITSU: A SUPERB AND LARGE BRONZE
VASE DEPICTING HERONS AND LOTUS**

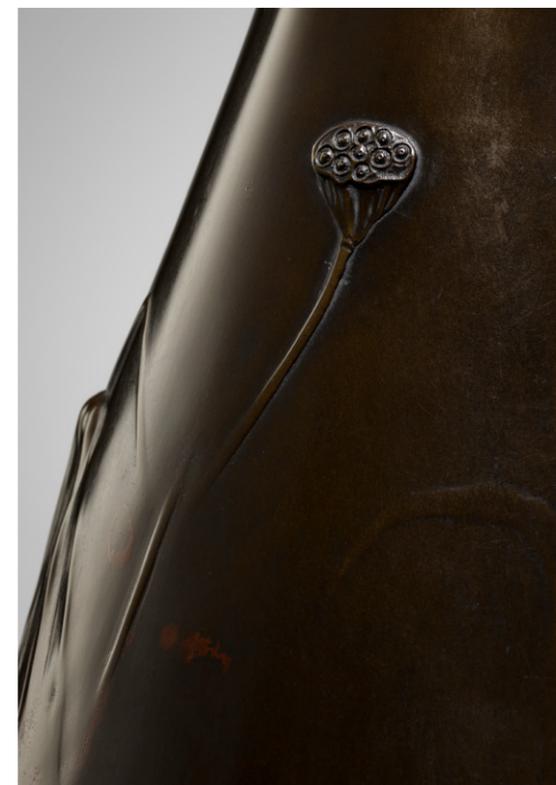
By Hidemitsu (Shuko), signed Hidemitsu sei
Japan, Tokyo, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The pear-shaped body supported on a waisted foot and rising to a slender octagonal neck with a flared rim, the body superbly cast in relief with a group of seven herons with long beaks and gilt-ringed shakudo eyes perched amid lotus leaves executed in shallow relief which displays a particularly fine, almost misty quality. The other side of the vase is similarly cast with a hanging lotus leaf and a rising lotus pod. The bronze patinated to a warm coppery tone. The base cast HIDEMITSU sei [made by Hidemitsu].

HEIGHT 45.5 cm
WEIGHT 4,374 g

Condition: Very good condition with some wear and minor casting flaws.
Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400





60
**TAKAHASHI RYOON: A MONUMENTAL
BRONZE VASE WITH A SEA EAGLE**

By Takahashi Ryouon, signed Takahashi Ryouon
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The bracket-lobed sides supported on a spreading foot and rising to a tall, gently waisted neck with a flared foliate trumpet mouth, the sides and base of the neck finely carved with a stream surmounted by the applied bronze crashing waves and rockwork base on which a sea eagle is perched, the majestic bird neatly detailed with finely incised plumage, sharp claws, curved beak, and gilt eyes with shakudo pupils. The base with a square seal mark TAKAHASHI RYOON.

HEIGHT 61.5 cm
WEIGHT 14.1 kg

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few minuscule nicks, occasional light scratches. Some typical casting flaws.

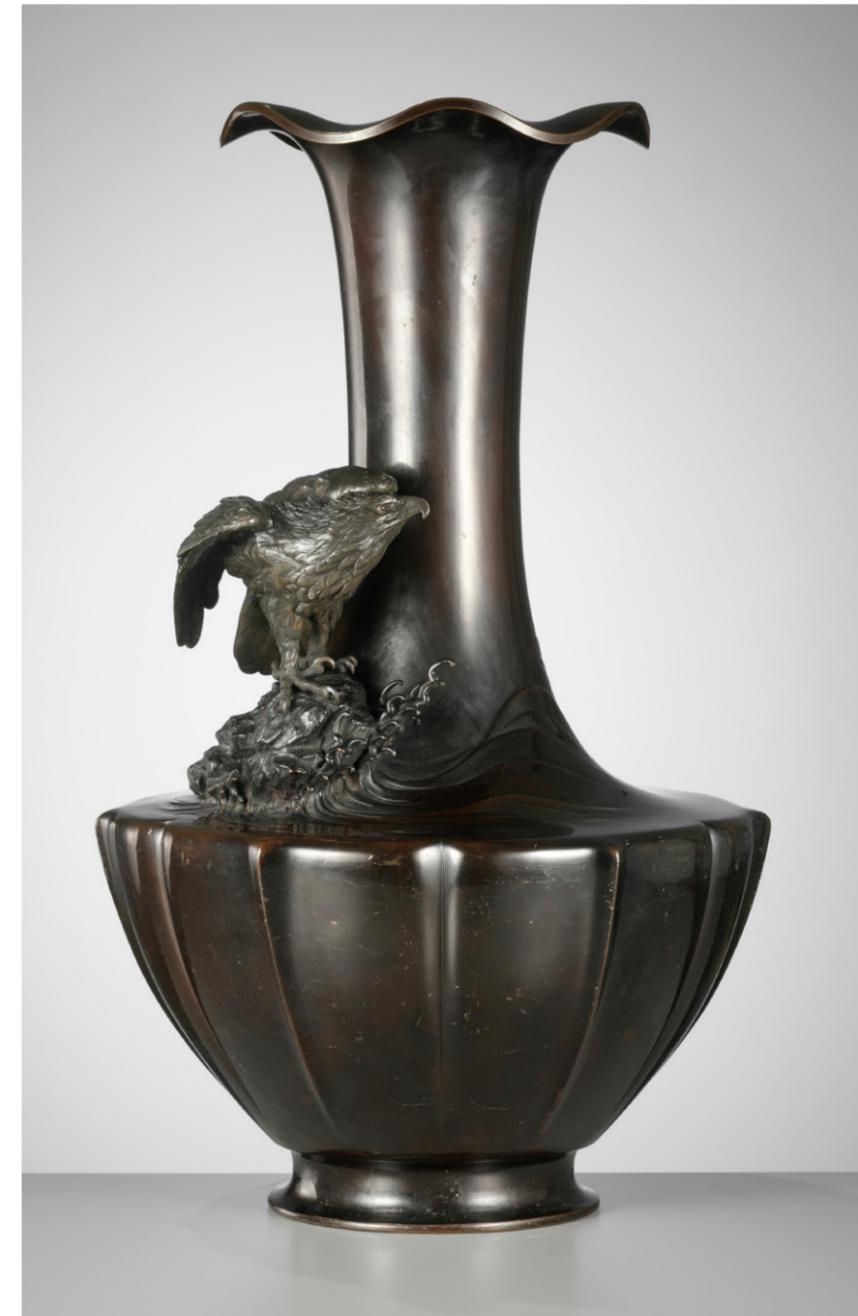
Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 76.3310 (lacquered to the underside). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related bronze vase with a silver eagle, 68.5 cm, at Galerie Zacke, 27 January 2022, Vienna, lot 351 (sold for 13,904 EUR). Another large work by this artist, depicting Daruma, was sold at Zacke, Fine Japanese Art, 28 October 2020, Vienna, lot 27 (sold for 17,696 EUR).



Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400





61
**KOITSU FOR THE NOGAWA COMPANY:
 A SUPERB AND LARGE INLAID BRONZE
 VASE DEPICTING A GOJUNOTO PAGODA
 IN SPRING**

By Koitsu for the Nogawa Company, signed Kotsu and with Nogawa company mark
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The slender ovoid body rising to a short waisted neck with a lipped everted rim, masterfully decorated in gold, silver, and shakudo takazogan depicting a five-storied Gojunoto pagoda in spring, the sorin (spire) delicately inlaid, the lower part of the pagoda obscured by the dense foliage of the trees below, with only a few blossoming cherry branches poking out, the base with the Nogawa Company mark. Signed to the back KOITSU koku [carved by Koitsu]. With an associated reticulated wood base.

HEIGHT 32 cm
 WEIGHT 2,796 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Founded in Kyoto in 1825, during the Meiji era the Nogawa Company developed into a commissioning house that showed at major international expositions between 1893 and 1910 as well as at the Naikoku Kangyo Hakurankai (Domestic Industrial Promotion Exhibitions) in 1881 and 1890. The company had a popular store which was on the "must-see" list for international globetrotters, as well as showrooms in the Kyoto and Miyako Hotels.

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000



Spring Evening at Toshogu in Ueno, by Kawase Hasui, 1948





62
**OTSUEI FOR THE
NOGAWA COMPANY:
A MASTERFUL INLAID
BRONZE VASE DEPICTING
A SPIDER HANGING
FROM A PLUM BRANCH**

By Otsuei for the Nogawa Company,
with company mark and signed Otsuei
with kakihan
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The tall slender body rising to a
waisted neck with everted lipped
rim, the sides finely decorated in
iro-e takazogan with a masterful gold
spider hanging by a single thread
from its irregularly constructed web
around a thin prunus branch bearing
leaves with serrated edges, slowly
opening buds, and a single blossom,
the base with the Nogawa Company
mark, the reverse signed OTSUEI with
a kakihan.

HEIGHT 36 cm
WEIGHT 2,684 g

Condition: Excellent condition with
minor wear.

Founded in Kyoto in 1825, during
the Meiji era the Nogawa Company
developed into a commissioning
house that showed at major
international expositions between
1893 and 1910 as well as at the
Naikoku Kangyo Hakurankai (Domestic
Industrial Promotion Exhibitions) in
1881 and 1890. The company had a
popular store which was on the "must-
see" list for international globetrotters,
as well as showrooms in the Kyoto and
Miyako Hotels.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related
bronze vase, signed
Otsuno with kakihan and
with Nogawa Company
mark, 32 cm high, also
depicting a spider
hanging from its web, at
Christie's, 18 May 2012,
London, lot 151 (sold for
27,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 15,000
Starting price EUR 8,000





63
**A PAIR OF SUPERB GOLD-INLAID
 BRONZE 'MYTHICAL BEASTS' KORO
 (INCENSE BURNERS) AND COVERS**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

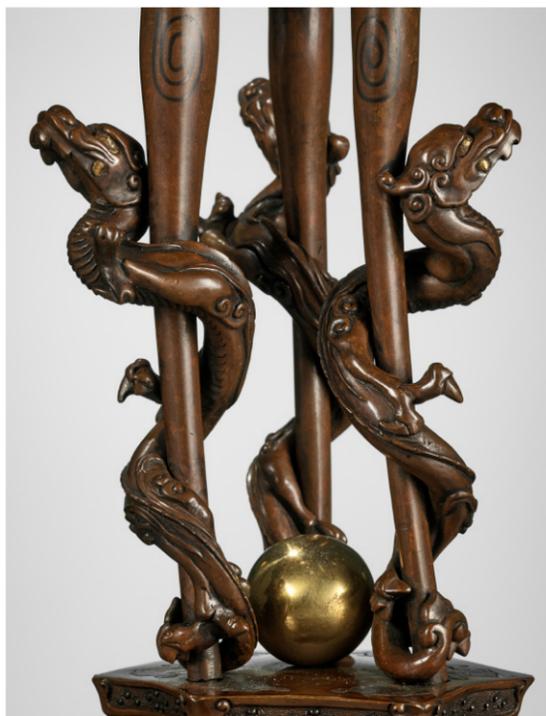
Finely decorated in gold, silver, and shakudo takazogan, each censer of compressed globular form, inlaid to one side with a winged mythical beast chasing a ribboned vase and to the other with a ribboned vase flanked by a fan and a reishi cloud, the shoulder applied with baku-form handles suspending loose gold rings, the domed cover decorated with gold-inlaid swirling clouds above a lappet border and surmounted by a baying kirin, raised on three elongated legs encircled by three-clawed dragons and centered by a gold tama, above an elaborately cast and openworked tiered hexagonal base.

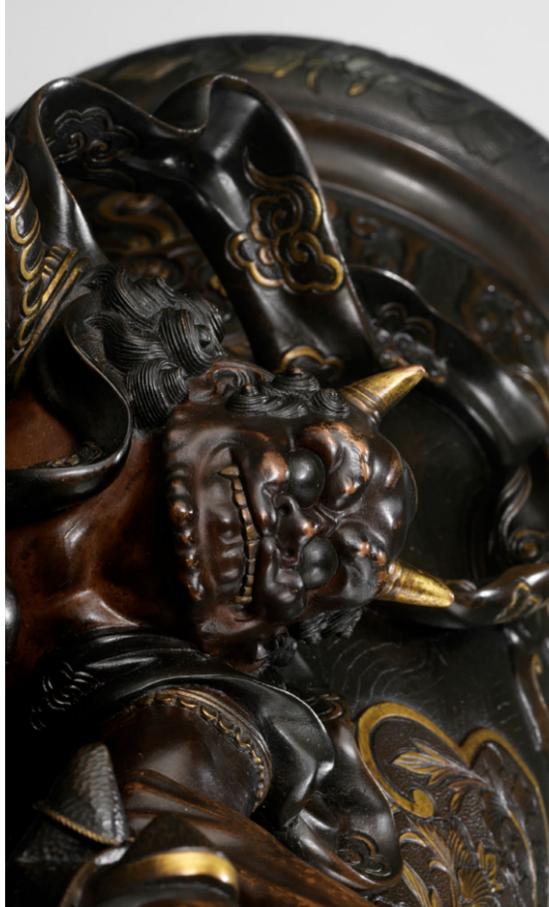
HEIGHT 38 cm and 37.5 cm
 WEIGHT 2,802 and 2,816 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and few minuscule nicks.

The present koro depicts three of the most iconic Japanese mythical creatures. Dragons are hugely significant in Asian culture. Known as the Ryu or Tatsu in Japan, they are closely related to the Chinese Long and Korean Yong. The Japanese dragons rarely fly and usually reside in or near the sea and other bodies of water. Japanese dragons have positive symbolism. They are good and represent wisdom and generosity, and they are portrayed as using their powers to help mankind. The baku is a mythical Japanese chimeric creature which loosely resembles an elephant; it is said they eat nightmares and protect from pestilence and evil. The kirin (Qilin in Chinese) is a mythical chimerical creature common in artworks and legends across most of East Asia, it is believed to have originated in China around the 5th century BC. The Japanese kirin resembles a deer with long slender legs and horns; it is said that they are peaceful creatures with great power, they are able to walk on grass without disturbing a single blade, and they only appear at times when there is peace in the world. When the giraffe was first brought to Japan it greatly resembled the Kirin and so the Japanese word for giraffe is kirin.

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





64
**MIYAO: A SUPERB AND IMPRESSIVE
 PARCEL-GILT CENSER DEPICTING WATANABE
 NO TSUNA FIGHTING THE ONI IBARAKI**

By Miyao Eisuke of Yokohama, signed Miyao zo
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Heavily cast as the Rashomon Gate, the cylindrical vessel with elaborate stylized demon masks and shaped panels enclosing leafy peony sprays against a wood-grain ground, a smaller cylindrical pole beside the vase is similarly decorated with panels showing inome (boar's eye) elements and surmounted by the fierce oni with finely incised curled hair, two gold horns, and a floral garment, the demon being pulled down by the great samurai in the process of drawing his trusty sword. The censer fitted with a metal inset. The reverse of the vase signed in a gold-inlaid rectangular reserve MIYAO zo.

HEIGHT 57 cm
 WEIGHT 18.1 kg

Condition: Very good condition with some wear, the sword blade lost. Presents beautifully.
 Provenance: From a Swedish private collection.

Founded by Miyao Eisuke, the Miyao Company of Yokohama specialized in the manufacture of bronze sculptures, embellished with gold and silver as well as patinated copper alloys, that represent generic samurai warriors as well as more precisely identifiable characters from Japanese myth and legend. In addition, the company also made a smaller number of pieces in other formats such as incense-burners, vases, and chargers.

According to legend, in the late 10th century of Heian Period Japan, Ibaraki-doji, a notorious oni, resided at Rashomon Gate in Kyoto. Ibaraki-doji harassed people who tried to pass through the gate until a heroic samurai named Watanabe no Tsuna, a loyal retainer of Minamoto no Raiko, went to subdue the creature. When

Tsuna arrived at Rashomon Gate he was attacked by Ibaraki-doji. However, Tsuna was a strong and valiant swordsman who was able to defend himself against the ferocious attack. The battle raged on until Tsuna drew his katana and severed the arm of the demon. Screaming in pain, Ibaraki-doji ran away from Tsuna, leaving the severed arm behind. Tsuna swept up Ibaraki-doji's arm as a trophy. When he arrived home at his mansion, he wrapped up the severed arm and locked it away in a chest. A few days later, an elderly woman claiming to be Tsuna's aunt, Mashiba, came to visit him. During the conversation, the aunt asked her nephew to recount how he fought with the oni, and when Tsuna mentioned that he had the severed arm in his possession, his aunt was curious and asked to see it. The unsuspecting Tsuna brought out the chest with Ibaraki-doji's arm inside and when he removed the arm, his aunt revealed herself as being Ibaraki-doji in disguise. She grabbed the arm and escaped from Tsuna's mansion. Tsuna was astonished that Ibaraki-doji had posed as his elderly aunt and did not give chase. However, even after retrieving the arm, Ibaraki-doji never returned to dwell at Rashomon Gate again.



A woodblock print depicting Watanabe no Tsuna fighting Ibaraki-doji at Rashomon Gate by Masayoshi (1764-1824)

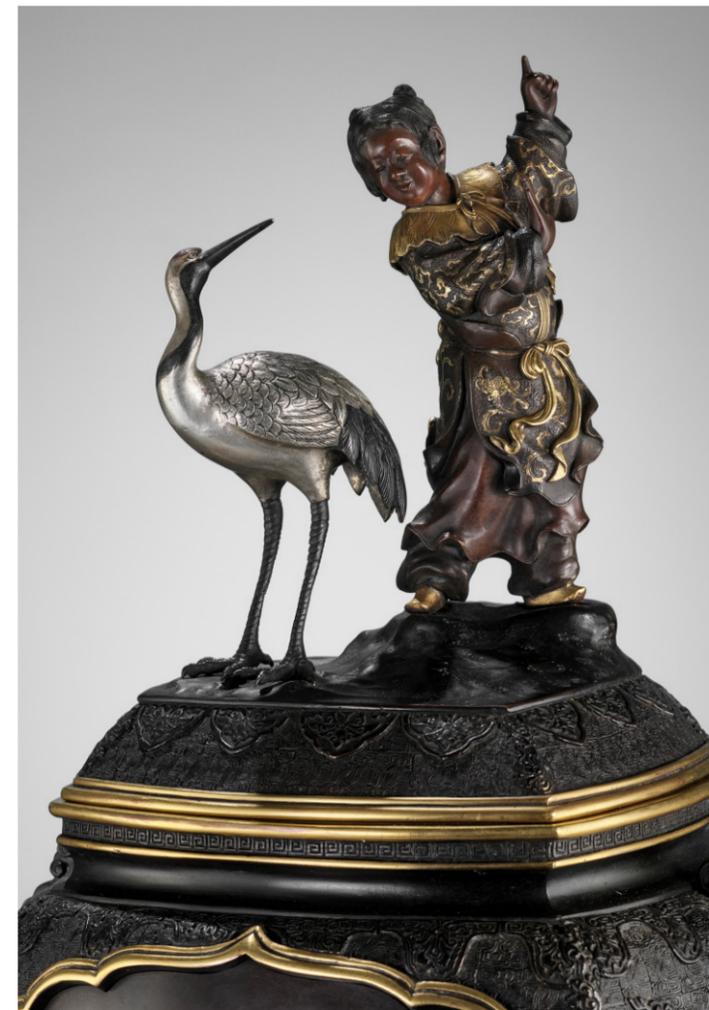
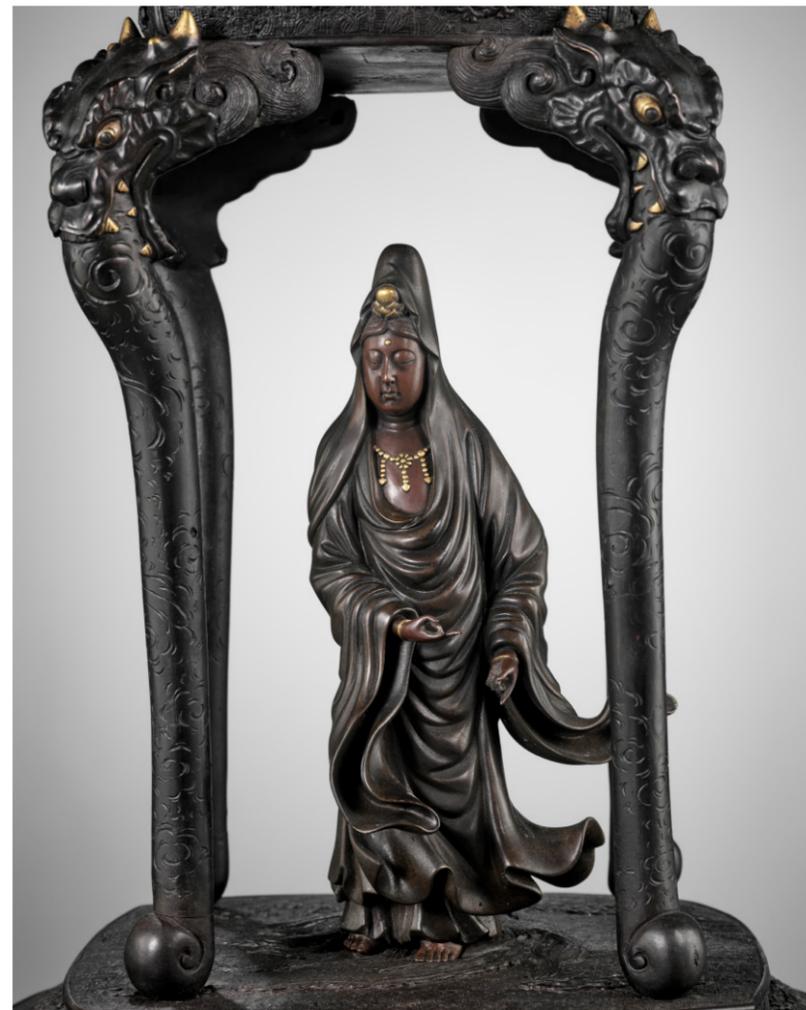
AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related bronze by the workshop of Miyao Eisuke, 67.3 cm high, at Christie's, 24 June 2014, New York, lot 28 (sold for 37,500 USD).



Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000

宮尾造







65
A TALL AND IMPRESSIVE PARCEL GILT BRONZE KORO (INCENSE BURNER) AND COVER, ATTRIBUTED TO THE MIYAO COMPANY

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The koro of rounded square form, fitted with a metal inset, the sides with two shaped panels in gold, copper, and shakudo takazogan to depict a rakan and oni conversing, the arhat wearing loose robes and holding a small figure of Kannon while the demon holds a staff, the reverse panel depicting pheasants and peony, the body cast with raised floral diaper and foliate designs against an archaic scroll ground and flanked by two scrolling cloud-form handles. The cover similarly cast and surmounted by a boy wearing a gold-inlaid robe decorated with clouds and flowers, standing in a dynamic pose beside a red-capped crane with silvered body and plumage. The vessel is supported on four long legs issuing from fierce dragon heads atop a tiered base which is crisply cast with stylized butterflies surrounding a ho-o bird against a diapered ground, a superbly patinated and gold-inlaid figure of Kannon wearing a long flowing robe with deeply incised folds standing atop the base which is raised on four short feet decorated with gold-inlaid ho-o birds. Unsigned, however confidently attributed to the Miyao company of Yokohama.

HEIGHT 91 cm
 WEIGHT 14.6 kg

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, minimal casting flaws, few minuscule nicks, occasional light surface scratches.
 Provenance: British collection.

Founded by Miyao Eisuke, the Miyao Company of Yokohama specialized in the manufacture of bronze sculptures, embellished with gold and silver as well as patinated copper alloys, that represent generic samurai warriors as well as more precisely identifiable characters from Japanese myth and legend. In addition, the company also made a smaller number of pieces in other formats such as incense burners, vases, and chargers.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related parcel gilt bronze censer, measuring 44.5 cm, also with rakan and oni motif and by the Miyao company, sold at Zucke, Fine Japanese Art, 4 June 2021, Vienna, lot 6 (sold for **17,696 EUR**).



Estimate EUR 15,000
 Starting price EUR 8,000



宮尾製之



66
**MIYAO: A RARE AND FINE PARCEL GILT
BRONZE OKIMONO OF A DRUNKEN SHOJO**

By Miyao Eisuke of Yokohama, signed Miyao sei kore
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The visibly drunken Shōjo kneeling with a large sake cup in its hands, the inebriated facial expression masterfully crafted, the mouth agape ready to take a large gulp of the silver-inlaid sake, the long hair neatly incised and falling down the back, dressed in a robe richly decorated with gilt flowers and wave patterns, signed within a gold plaque underneath MIYAO sei kore. With an associated lobed base embellished in gold takamaki-e with water dragons amid crashing waves.

HEIGHT 19 cm
WEIGHT 3,774 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor surface wear, some light surface scratches, tiny nicks.
Provenance: British collection.

The Miyao workshop was founded in the mid-19th century by Miyao Eisuke of Yokohama and is renowned for its powerful portrayals of legendary and historical figures made of bronze, often decorated with gilt and silver.

A Shōjo is a Japanese sea spirit with similarities to a ghost but differing from the latter in the fact that Shōjo are tangible. It enjoys drinking alcohol, especially sake. Legend has it that workers at breweries in Japan have seen Shōjo lurking about after indulging in their products.

Estimate EUR 6,000
Starting price EUR 3,000





67
**A PAIR OF PARCEL-GILT BRONZE FIGURES
 DEPICTING SAMURAI WARRIORS**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Each figure is finely cast and supported on a carved wood stand raised on four curved feet and decorated with pierced floral designs. The samurai is captured mid-leap with one foot raised, his body plunging forward with both hands clutching his sword above his head. The archer is preparing to shoot an arrow at his target, his body in a back-leaning stance with the front leg fully outstretched and the other slightly bent, a sword tucked into his belt. Both warriors with neatly detailed facial features and armor. Viewed as a pair, it is easy to imagine this samurai and archer embroiled in a vicious fight to the death that is about to reach its end, though the outcome is still unsure.

HEIGHT 20.2 cm (the samurai excl. stand), 16.5 cm (the archer excl. bow and stand), and 22.7 cm (the archer incl. stand)
 WEIGHT 1,354 g (the samurai incl. stand), 1,092 g (the archer incl. stand)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related group of samurai warriors of similar size, by the Miyao company, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 8 November 2018, London, lot 246 (**sold for 7,500 GBP**). Also compare to a closely related gilt-bronze figure of a warrior by Miyao, measuring 27.5 cm, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 6 November 2012, London, lot 507 (**sold for 16,250 GBP**).



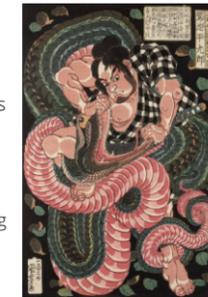
Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000



68
**TAMAGAWA MITSUKIYO FOR THE
 KAKUHA COMPANY: A SUPERB SILVER AND
 GOLD-INLAID BRONZE USUBATA VASE**

By Tamagawa Mitsukiyo for the Kakuha company, signed Dai-Nihon Etchu-koku, Kakuha sei, Mitsukiyo Japan, c. 1880, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The ovoid body flanked by two openworked handles depicting ho-o birds at flight amid scrolling clouds and decorated in gold, silver, copper, and shakudo takazogan within shaped panels depicting to one side a samurai carrying a noble lady on his shoulder amid pine and bamboo with finely incised crashing waves in the background, and to the other the hero Saginoike Heikuro fighting a giant python with neatly incised scales atop a craggy rock amid crashing waves and a waterfall. The separately cast trumpet mouth with a galleried rim inlaid in silver wire with a geometric and a foliate band, the base of the mouth with silver-inlaid leafy floral blossoms, the interior with katakiri and kebori as well as gold and copper takazogan to depict a ho-o bird beside a leafy branch and a kirin amid swirling clouds, the exterior similarly decorated with birds and butterflies amid leafy branches and peony.



Woodblock print by Kuniyoshi depicting Saginoike Heikuro fighting the giant snake at the lake of Sayama

The separately cast, elaborately openworked, tiered stand is intricately decorated with gold and silver inlay, both flat and in high relief, as well as katakiri and kebori, depicting beast masks, birds in flight, blooming chrysanthemums, leafy bamboo, and implements for the shell-matching game (kai-awase), and further with geometric and foliate designs.

HEIGHT 59 cm
 WEIGHT 13.9 kg

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Kakuha Kanzaemon I, real name Kakuha Zenjiro, was a member of a lineage of metalworkers from Toyama. In 1869, he started a branch office in the port of Yokohama for the export trade of bronze ware and also acted as a retailer for foreign clients in Japan.

Based on Chinese bronze forms but with exaggeratedly wide rims, usubata were first cast in Japan in the seventeenth century for formal flower arrangements; then, during the early Meiji era, elaborate multi-part usubata became one of the favored forms of bronze destined for international exhibitions and the global export market.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

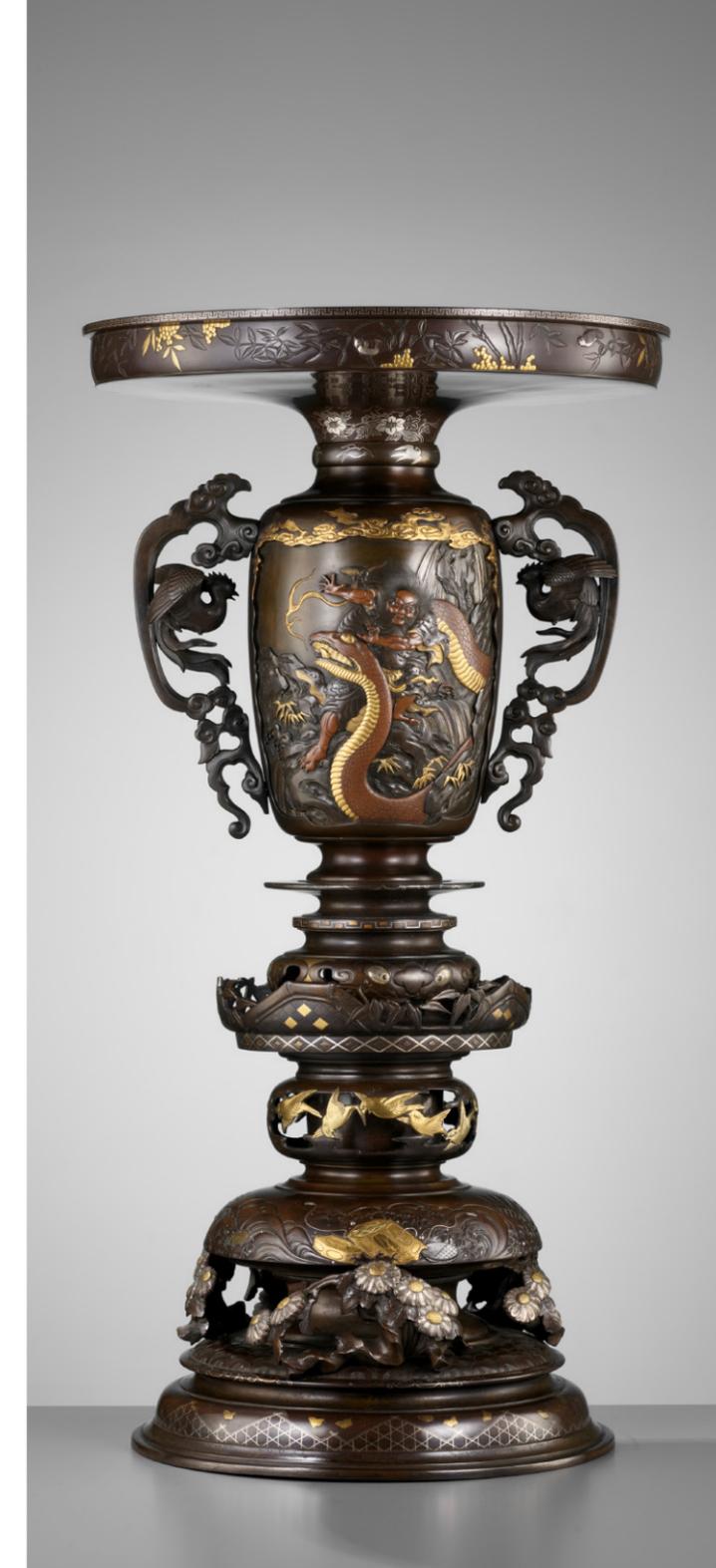
The artist Tamagawa Mitsukiyo appears to be rare, his output focused on producing exceptionally fine usubata. A single usubata is preserved in the Takaoka City Museum of Art and a pair of Usubata are located in the Portland Museum of Art, accession no. 2000.64A,B.



AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a pair of related usubata vases by Tamagawa Mitsukiyo, dated Meiji period, circa 1880, each 48 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 7 November 2019, lot 219 (bought-in at an estimate of 25,000-30,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000





69
**A FINE INLAID IRON PANEL
DEPICTING EGRETS AND LOTUS**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The roughly textured iron ground finely decorated in gold, silver, and bronze takazogan to depict two egrets, one flying and the other standing in a lotus pond, surrounded by giant leaves, buds, blossoms, and reeds, the pond rendered with subtly incised lines.

SIZE 50 x 33.5 (the panel) and 57 x 41 cm (incl. frame)
WEIGHT 3,360 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear.

With an old wood frame.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related inlaid iron panel signed Fukuda Michiharu zo, also dated late 19th century, Meiji period, 59 cm high, at Sotheby's, Fine Japanese Art, 14 May 2019, London, lot 168 (sold for 8,750 GBP).

Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400





70
**A MASTERFUL PARCEL-GILT
BRONZE VASE DEPICTING A TREE TRUNK
WITH AUTUMN LEAVES**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly cast as a gnarled and knotted tree trunk bearing thin branches issuing maple leaves, exquisitely patinated and gilt to convey the turning of the leaves, which are further detailed with neatly incised veins and finely serrated edges, the stump masterfully finished with a strikingly naturalistic texture, the straight rim incised with growth rings.

HEIGHT 35.8 cm
WEIGHT 4,844 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Provenance: From a Belgian private collection, assembled between 1950 and 1990.

The present vase, impressively cast in a minimalist yet naturalistic manner, was clearly made by an extremely talented metalworker. The masterful use of patination and the superb texture of the bronze style make an attribution to the workshop of Miyao Eisuke reasonable.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related pair of bronze figural vases by Miyao Eisuke at Sotheby's, 15 December 2011, Paris, lot 337 (bought-in at an **estimate of 20,000-30,000 EUR**).



Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400





71
**A SUPERB SHAKUDO OKIMONO
DEPICTING AN AUTUMNAL SCENE
OF A CROW WITH MAPLE LEAVES**

Japan, c. 1900, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Naturalistically modeled as a karasu (crow) perched on a rock, formed from a section of rootwood, its beak holding a maple leaf, the rootwood base with further silver-inlaid fallen maple leaves, the gold and shakudo eyes staring in the distance, the plumage very finely incised.

HEIGHT 19 cm
WEIGHT 1,194 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear. The base with a fine, smooth polish.
Provenance: British collection.

Meiji metalwork depicting crows is to be considered rare, with only few examples recorded in literature and public collections. In Japan, the crow is a symbol of gratitude and family love. It is also considered the divine messenger of good omens. The Kojiki (713) relates that the crow Yatagarasu guided the mythical founder of Japan, Emperor Jinmu (660-585 BC), on a military campaign to Yamato.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:
Compare a closely related shakudo model of a crow by Masatsune, illustrated in The Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Japanese Art - Treasures of Imperial Japan, Metalwork Part II, 1995, no. 104.



Estimate EUR 8,000
Starting price EUR 4,000





72
**INOUE: A SUPERB INLAID BRONZE DISH
DEPICTING BOYS ON A DRAGON BOAT**

By Inoue company of Kyoto, signed Kyoto Inoue sei
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The shallow rounded sides rising from a short spreading foot to a gold-inlaid lobed rim with a masterful Komai-style lozenge design, encircling a central medallion finely decorated in iro-e takazogan with three boys dressed in Korean festive garments and standing in a dragon boat in a lotus pond with neatly incised blossoms and furled leaves, detailed in katakiri, all below a long-tailed ho-o bird in flight. One boy is standing in the back, holding a long staff with reishi terminal, beside a flag waving in the wind, above a second boy dancing and holding a drumstick and fan, wearing a peacock-feathered hat, the third boy standing behind the large dragon head holding a trumpet in his hand, all against a rich copper-brown patinated ground. The base with the gilt signature Kyoto INOUE sei [made by Inoue of Kyoto].

DIAMETER 27.4 cm
WEIGHT 1,234 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear.
Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 6,000
Starting price EUR 3,000





73
**A MATCHED PAIR OF GOLD-INLAID
 BRONZE 'BUDDHIST TEMPLE BELL'
 KOGO (INCENSE CONTAINERS),
 ONE BY MIYABE ATSUYOSHI**

One by Miyabe Atsuyoshi, signed Ikkodo
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Each cast in the form of a bell, the dark-brown patinated bronze decorated in gold, silver, and copper takazogan to depict a fierce three-clawed dragon with neatly incised scales, its sinuous body partly obscured by the surrounding swirling clouds and crashing waves, a lotus motif on either side, with a band of formal lappet ornament inlaid in gold around the base, the domed lid with gold lappets and raised bosses imitating those on a real bell, surmounted by a handle in the form of a double-dragon head. One bell is signed to the base IKKODO – the art name of Miyabe Atsuyoshi.

HEIGHT 12.8 cm (each)
 WEIGHT 757.6 g and 639.2 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

During the Meiji era, Japanese metalworkers began to manufacture ornaments in the form of Buddhist temple bells. Reflecting increasingly sophisticated Western interest in native traditions and beliefs, such pieces were mostly intended not for liturgical use in Japan but as ornaments for American and European drawing rooms. Even so, their makers made an effort to give them the appearance of miniaturized versions of the real thing, sometimes as with this particularly high-quality lot adding fanciful surface motifs that appealed to foreign taste for exotic myth and legend.

Miyabe Atsuyoshi, art name Ikkodo, is recorded in Wakayama Takeshi, *Kinko Jiten* (Dictionary of Metalworkers), Tokyo, Token Shunju Shinbunsha, 1999, p. 1141, as being a maker of sword fittings and a pupil of Shinoyama Tokuoki (1813-1891), active in Kyoto during the late Edo period and early Meiji era.



Although the present boxes and covers were not conceived as a pair, they match perfectly and it can be seen as a great (and unlikely) accomplishment by the collector to have brought the two together.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related single kogo (incense container) with Nogawa mark, sold at Christie's, *Masterful Exuberance, Artistic Craftsmanship of Imperial Japan*, 18 May 2012, London, lot 23 (sold for **11,875 GBP**).



Estimate EUR 12,000
 Starting price EUR 6,000



74
**CHOMIN: A SUPERB PAIR
 OF INLAID BRONZE VASES
 WITH MINOGAME AND GEESE**

By Chomin (Nagatami), signed Chomin
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period
 (1868-1912)

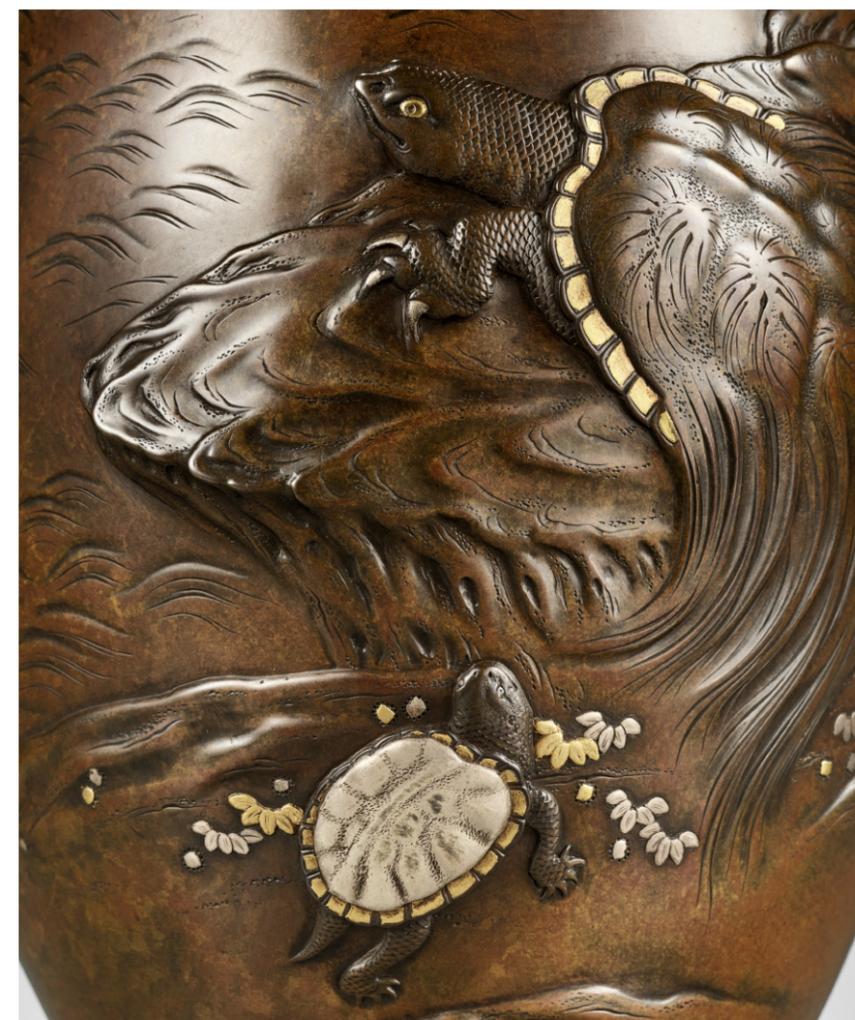
Each of ovoid form, supported on a short spreading foot and rising to a waisted neck with everted rim, decorated with fine incision work as well as masterfully executed flat and relief inlays in gold and silver takazogan. One vase depicts a minogame on a rocky outcrop below the full moon partly obscured by swirling clouds, a small turtle below the majestic thousand-year-tortoise. The other vase depicts three geese descending from the sky above trees and bamboo leaves, the reverse with swirling clouds. The base of each with a rectangular silver reserve incised with the signature CHOMIN.

HEIGHT 29 cm and 28.9 cm
 WEIGHT 2,418 g and 2,220 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Takahashi Ryoun lived in Tokyo and was active from the late Meiji period into the early Showa period. He graduated from the Tokyo School of Fine Arts and was famed for his skill in bronze casting. The Tokyo Casting Association lists him as a designated special member, a ranking reserved only for the best artists. He exhibited his works at the Paris Great Exposition in 1900: three pieces were entered in the Exhibition Catalogue Two (Q 107, 161, 175), and one piece was exhibited in the Award Winning Catalogue. His work can be found in the Museum of the Japanese Imperial Collections (Sannomaru Shozo-kan) in Tokyo.

Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





75
**MIYABE ATSUYOSHI:
 A PAIR OF FINE INLAID BRONZE VASES**

By Miyabe Atsuyoshi, signed Ikkodo Miyabe Atsuyoshi with kakihan Japan, late 19th-early 20th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Each of slender ovoid form, supported on a short straight foot and rising to a waisted neck with a galleried rim, the shoulder and rim neatly incised with key-fret bands, finely decorated in gold, silver, copper, and shakudo takazogan as well as katakiri and kebori to the neck with autumn leaves and to the body with a front panel enclosed by gold cranes and a reverse panel with the edge in the form of crashing waves, each reserved against a deeply incised diapered ground interrupted by gold-inlaid wavy and floral designs. One vase depicts owls perched on leafy blossoming branches with the full silver moon partly obscured by a raised wispy cloud to the front and a towering pine tree in front of a long bridge with Mount Fuji in the background to the reverse, the other vase with a bird of prey clutching a small bird above a stream amid snowy bamboo and leaves to the front and a lakeshore scene with a fishing hut and trees to the reverse. The base of each vase is signed IKKODO MIYABE ATSUYOSHI with a kakihan (artist's monogram).

HEIGHT 23.5 cm (each)
 WEIGHT 978 g and 1,018 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Miyabe Atsuyoshi, art name Ikkodo, is recorded in Wakayama Takeshi, *Kinko Jiten* (Dictionary of Metalworkers), Tokyo, Token Shunju Shinbunsha, 1999, p. 1141, as being a maker of sword fittings and a pupil of Shinoyama Tokuoki (1813-1891), active in Kyoto during the late Edo period and early Meiji era. Working out of Kyoto, Miyabe Atsuyoshi exhibited works domestically and internationally at the turn of the twentieth century, such as at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, MO.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare an inlaid bronze koro and cover by Miyabe Atsuyoshi, also decorated with an owl, illustrated in Meiji no Takara: Treasures of Imperial Japan - The Nasser D. Khalili Collection, The Kibo Foundation, 1995, Metalwork part II, no. 93.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related pair of vases by Miyabe Atsuyoshi, also dated late 19th century, each 30 cm high, at Christie's, 7 November 2012, London, lot 313 (sold for 12,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000

76
**A FINE INLAID BRONZE
VASE WITH QUAIL AND
AUTUMN GRASSES**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

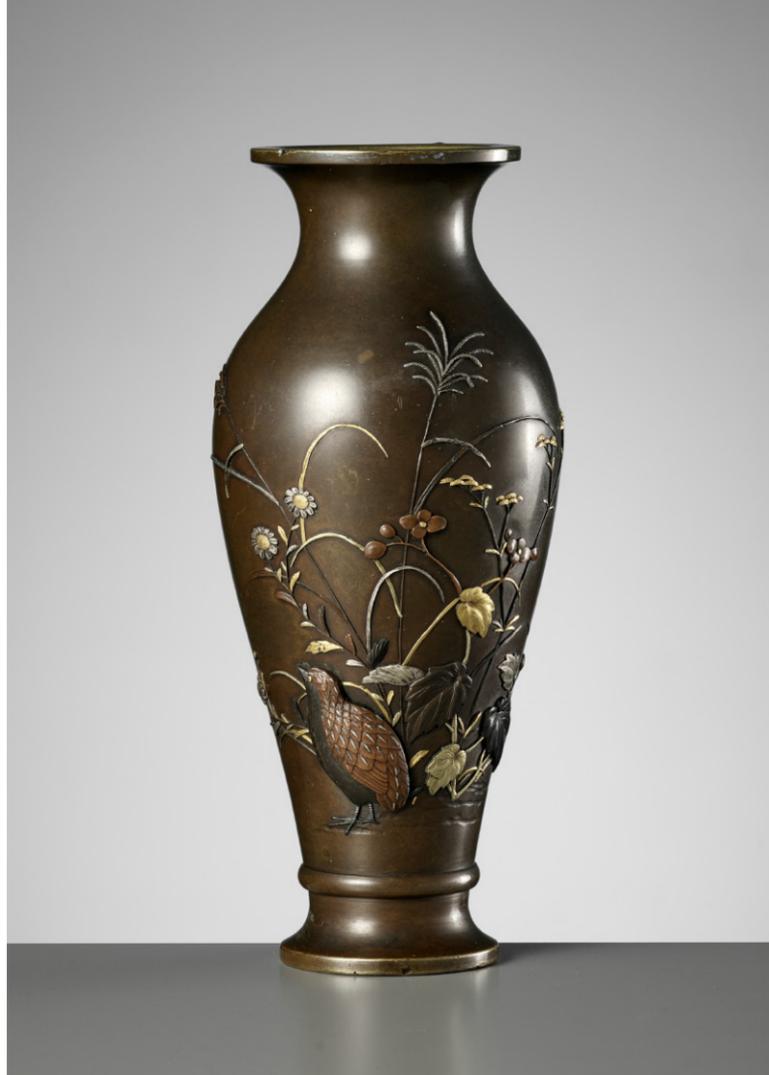
The baluster body supported on a spreading foot and rising to a waisted neck with a broad everted rim, the sides finely decorated in iro-e takazogan to depict a quail perched on the subtly incised ground amid autumn grasses and leaves.

HEIGHT 18 cm
WEIGHT 700 g

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, minuscule nicks, and light surface scratches.

Provenance: Austrian private collection.

Estimate EUR 1,000
Starting price EUR 500



77
**GENRYUSAI SEIYA:
A CHARMING AND RARE
MINIATURE BRONZE VASE
WITH MONKEYS**

By Genryusai Seiya, signed Seiya 誠谷
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The vase with a bulbous body, rising from a short, splayed foot to a trumpet neck, flanked by three clambering monkeys, the larger one holding another monkey's foot and leaning forward over the edge, a small monkey holding onto the edge of the upper rim. Their eyes inlaid in gilt, and the fur neatly incised. The recessed base signed SEIYA.

HEIGHT 10.8 cm
WEIGHT 310.4 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few small nicks, and dents. Fine, chocolate brown patina.

Provenance: British private collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



78
**TANETOSHI: A FINE BRONZE VASE
DEPICTING HOTEI GAZING AT THE FULL MOON**

By Tanetoshi, signed Tanetoshi saku
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The ovoid body supported on a short waisted foot and rising to a short, slightly flared rim, the sides finely cast in high relief with a characteristically full-bellied Hotei holding his treasure sack in one hand, a gnarled staff in the other, his well-detailed face with a cheerful expression as he looks up to gaze at the full moon. The base signed TANETOSHI saku [made by Tanetoshi].

HEIGHT 27.3 cm
WEIGHT 3,297 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, the base with few light surface scratches.

Provenance: British private collection.

Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000



79
**KAZUTOSHI: A LARGE AND
IMPRESSIVE INLAID BRONZE CHARGER
DEPICTING DARUMA AS DAIDARABOTCHI**

By Yanagi Kazutoshi, signed Kazutoshi/Ichiju with seal Ichiryu
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely decorated in gold, silver, shakudo, and copper takazogan to depict a parody of Daruma (Bodhidharma) posing as Daidarabotchi, detailed with bushy brows, reverse-painted glass eyes, and large thick earlobes, crouching over a snow-capped mountain above two cranes flying over clouds. The rim of silver. Signed to the right in gold takazogan KAZUTOSHI/ICHIJU and with a seal Ichiryu.

DIAMETER 46 cm
WEIGHT c. 7,900 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, the base with few minuscule nicks and light scratches.

Yanagi Kazutoshi used the art name Ichiryuken and was also known as Ichiryu Kazutoshi. He was active during the late Edo period and is listed on page 16 in the Toso Kinko Jiten by Wakayama Takeshi, Yuzankaku Publishers.

Daidarabotchi is a gigantic yokai in Japanese mythology, sometimes said to pose as a mountain range when sleeping. The size of a daidarabotchi was so great that his footprints were said to have created innumerable lakes and ponds. In one legend, a daidarabotchi weighed Mount Fuji and Mount Tsukuba to see which was heavier, but he accidentally split Tsukuba's peak after he was finished with it.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a pair of inlaid iron panels depicting monkeys by the same artist at Sworders, Asian Art, 13 May 2022, London, lot 209 (sold for 20,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 10,000
Starting price EUR 5,000





80
**JOUN: A SUPERB
BRONZE PORTRAIT
OKIMONO OF DARUMA**

By Kitamura Joun (active c
1926-1968), signed Joun saku
Japan, c. 1930

The Zen patriarch standing, his
hands folded at the chest shrouded
in the sleeves of his long flowing
robe billowing around him, only one
superbly crafted finger showing,
the voluminous folds elegantly and
deeply carved, his chest hair subtly
incised, his face with a meditative
expression, the silver eyes with dark
pupils pointing upward, the earrings
of gilt metal, his feet wearing
sandals with floral straps, the toes
neatly detailed. Signed to the back
JOUN saku [made by Joun].

HEIGHT 40,3 cm
WEIGHT 4,673 g

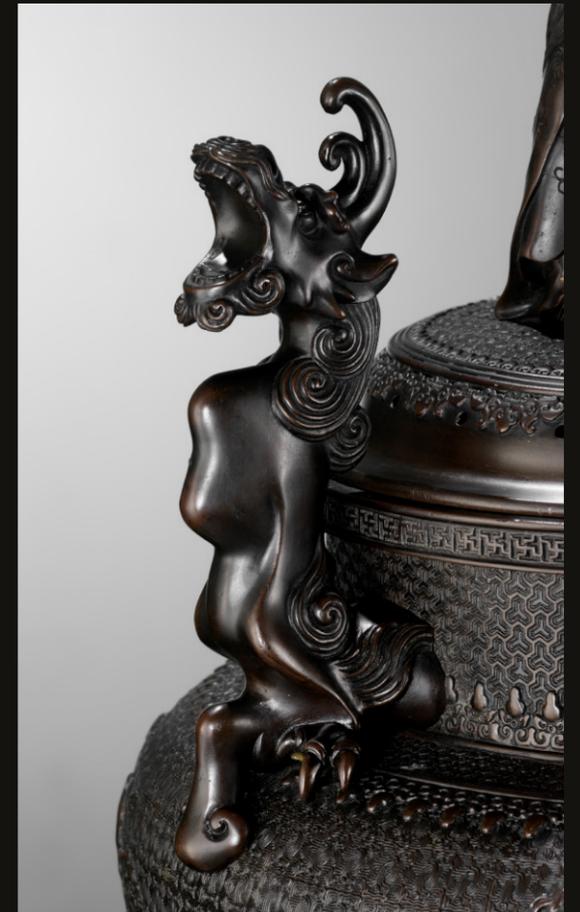
Condition: Excellent condition with
minor wear.

Kitamura Joun exhibited his work
at the 15th Nihon Dento Kogei-ten
exhibition (Japan Traditional Arts
Crafts Exhibition) in 1968 (Showa
43). This artist is not to be confused
with Oshima Joun (1858-1940), who
used a different character for Jo.

Daruma (Bodhidharma) was an
Indian monk who lived during
the 5th or 6th century, credited
with bringing Buddhism to China.
His teachings centered around
meditation, as do many of the
legends surrounding him. One
details how when he fell asleep
seven years into his nine years of
wall gazing, he became so angry
with himself that he cut off his
eyelids so he might never sleep
again. Where his eyelids hit the
floor, the first tea plants grew,
providing stimulants to help keep
his students awake.

Estimate EUR 10,000
Starting price EUR 5,000





81
**SHOKAKEN: A LARGE AND EXCEPTIONAL
 BRONZE KORO (INCENSE BURNER) AND COVER
 WITH THE TWELVE ANIMALS OF THE ZODIAC
 (JUNISHI)**

By Oshima Yasutaro (Shokaken), signed Dai Nihon Kanda kawabe ju, Shokaken kore wo chu
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely cast, the compressed globular body supported on a tall, prominent foot and rising to a broad cylindrical neck with galleried rim, flanked by two handles in the form of baying kirin with exquisitely rendered curved horns, scrolling manes, and muscular bodies. The slightly domed cover is surmounted by two karako, one standing wearing a shishimai mask and the other seated beside a drum incised with a mitsudomo-e symbol and holding a stick, both showing cheerful expressions. The koro and cover are crisply cast with finely worked diapered patterns, the body is further cast in relief with the twelve animals of the zodiac, each dynamically rendered and neatly detailed to convey the mythical race that would determine their order in the zodiac. The foot is raised on five legs in the form of winged kirin with elongated bodies atop a circular base decorated with concentric diapered bands encircling a raised central medallion cast in relief with sparrows in flight amid swirling clouds. The underside of the foot is cast with the inscription and signature Dai-Nihon Kanda kawabe ju, SHOKAKEN kore wo chu ("This is cast by Shokaken, resident by the Kanda River, Great Japan").

HEIGHT 75 cm
 WEIGHT 19 kg

Oshima Yasutaro (artist name: Shokaken) was born to a prominent family of metalworkers in 1849 and was the son of Oshima Takajiro. Together with his younger brother Oshima Joun (1858-1940), he successfully ran a studio called Sanseisha and produced bronzes of the finest quality. In *Recollections of Oshima Joun*, by Katori Hozuma published in 1941 by Tokyo Chukin-kai (Tokyo Cast Metalwork Association), he talked of his older brother who died young as being of the first rank of bronze metalwork artists in 1878, producing works of the very highest quality and commissioned for the world exhibitions. Shokaken indeed exhibited his works at numerous international expositions, including a metalwork incense burner at the Vienna World Exposition in 1873, which is now housed in the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts and Contemporary Art, Vienna (Illustrated in *Arts of East and West from World Expositions 1855-1900: Paris, Vienna and Chicago* (Commemorating the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan), (Osaka, 2004), p. 20, plate I-16).

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, minimal casting flaws, few minuscule nicks, occasional light surface scratches.
 Provenance: French private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related bronze koro by Shokaken, 50 cm high, at Zucke, 3 December 2021, Vienna, lot 8 (sold for EUR 4,045).

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000





82
FUKUI KYORI & KIYOTOSHI: A LARGE BRONZE KORO IN THE FORM OF A SHACHIHOKO (DRAGON FISH)

By Fukui Kyori and Kiyotoshi, signed Fukuri Kyori zo and Kiyotoshi with kakihan
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly cast as a gigantic dragon fish, its head resting on the separately cast massive four-legged base with crashing waves both neatly incised to the top and cast in relief on the rim and feet, the sides with craggy rockwork in low relief, the shachihoko with a fierce expression marked by bulging eyes with gilt pupils, spiky brows and mane, and sharp fangs, the mouth agape in a roar, its head surmounted by the pierced cover with a standing Otohimé, the daughter of Ryujin, wearing a long flowing robe blowing in the wind and a headdress. The dragon fish's underbelly with a square aperture for attachment to the base and signed FUKURI KYORI zo, the base signed KIYOTOSHI with a kakihan.

HEIGHT 50.5 cm (incl. base) and 40.5 cm (excl. base)
 WEIGHT 8,814 g (the dragon fish) and 5,796 g (the base)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and casting flaws, few minuscule nicks, occasional light scratches, few minor losses.
 Provenance: French trade.

The given names Kiyotoshi (Seiri) and Kyori (Atsutoshi/Takatoshi) suggest that both artists were from the same family or worked at

the same studio, as they share the second character ro/toshi. For a smaller bronze okimono of a rakan, signed Fukui Kiyotoshi, see Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 14 May 2015, London, lot 419.

The Chinese character for shachi is composed of two radicals, that for 'fish' and that for 'tiger'. The creature is sometimes referred to as a 'tiger-fish', the face resembling a tiger or the mythical leonine shishi. However, the present example has a long face with the horns and whiskers of a dragon. It was believed that this animal could cause the rain to fall, and as such, temples and castles were often adorned with roof ornaments (crafted in the form of a shachihoko), in order to protect them from fire.



A shachihoko on the roof of Nagoya Castle

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related smaller bronze koro in the form of a shachihoko, 31.1 cm high, lacking the base and figural cover, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Art, 11 September 2019, New York, lot 915 (sold for 2,550 USD), and another by Kamejo, dated Meiji or Taisho period, 21 x 23 cm, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 8 November 2018, London, lot 231 (sold for 6,250 GBP).



Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



83
**A MASSIVE BRONZE KORO AND COVER
 WITH TOKUGAWA MON**

Japan, 19th century, late Edo period (1615-1868)

The sides of the vessel are finely worked in relief with two panels framed by ferocious dragons amid clouds, depicting to one side Lady Rokujo at the Nonomiya Shrine, with long hair and dressed in a long flowing court dress, standing in the sacred bamboo enclosure amid jars filled with water and reading a love-letter from Prince Hikaru Genji. The other panel depicts her as a vengeful spirit wearing a mask of Hannya, and clutching her long, finely incised hair with one hand.

The ovoid vessel supported on a revolving foot cast with crashing waves above a compressed globular 'basketweave' segment raised on four elegantly curved legs on a tiered circular base. The pierced cover surmounted by a screeching eagle with fierce expression and outstretched wings. The vessel is flanked by two handles in the form of sinuous dragons with neatly incised scales and mouths wide open, with a third dragon writhing around the foot. The neck is cast to either side with the Tokugawa clan mon (aoi mon), while the cover and base are decorated with crests of six radiating aoi leaves. The base with a cho mon (butterfly crest).

With a finely carved wood stand supported on four elegantly curved legs with scroll-form feet above an apron carved with clouds and foliage surmounted by a tiered square platform carved with decorative bands.

HEIGHT 132 cm (censer only), HEIGHT (total) 180 cm
 WEIGHT 28 kg (excl. stand)

Condition: Good overall condition with some wear, tiny nicks, light scratches, some repairs with traces of soldering, minor losses.
 Provenance: Belgian private collection.

Lady Rokujo is a character in The Tale of Genji (Genji Monogatari). She is a mistress of the novel's protagonist, Hikaru Genji, with whom she becomes infatuated and jealous of his other lovers. Her jealousy subconsciously causes her ikiryō (wandering spirit) to become a Shiryo (also known as a Yurei) that attacks and murders multiple other mistresses and wives of Genji.

The Tokugawa's clan symbol, known in Japanese as a mon, the "triple hollyhock" (although commonly, but mistakenly identified as "hollyhock", the aoi actually belongs to the birthwort family and translates as "wild ginger"—Asarum), has been a readily recognized icon in Japan, symbolizing in equal parts the Tokugawa clan and the last shogunate.

The cho (butterfly) mon traditionally represents the Taira Clan, who prospered during the Heian era (AD 700 ~ 1200). They are recognized as the first to use this mon, and nearly all of the modern families who claim it are descendants of the Taira clan.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related bronze koro with eagle finial, dated to the late 19th century, measuring 149.8 cm, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Art, 12 September 2012, New York, lot 3373 (sold for 15,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000





84
GENRYUSAI SEIYA: A VERY LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE BRONZE OKIMONO OF AN EAGLE

By Genryusai Seiya, signed Genryusai Seiya zo Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Superbly cast, the majestic eagle perched on a separately cast rocky outcrop above swirling and crashing waves, the smooth water and roughly textured rock creating a striking contrast, the eagle with intricately incised plumage, the wings spread out as the bird is about to take flight, its eyes in shakudo with gilt-ringed pupils, the strong beak elegantly curved, signed underneath within a square reserve GENRYUSAI SEIYA zo [Made by Genryusai Seiya].

HEIGHT 83.7 cm (incl. base), WIDTH 93.7 cm (the wingspan)
 WEIGHT 36.7 kg

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear and casting flaws as are to be expected.
 Provenance: Austrian private collection.

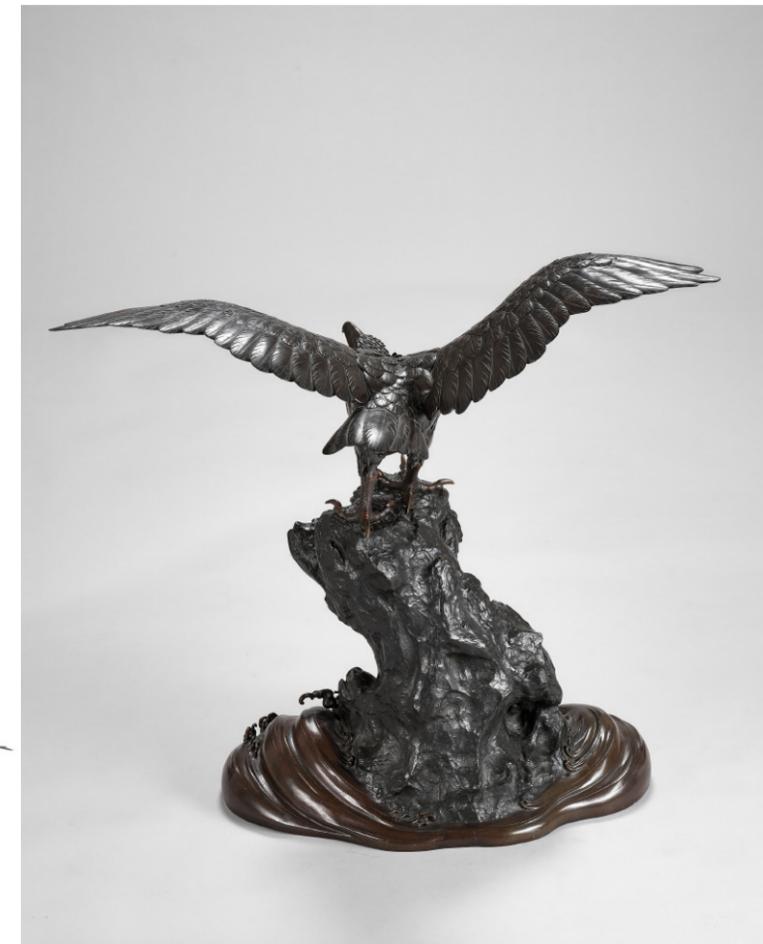
Genryusai Seiya was a master craftsman in charge of a workshop specializing in export wares of the highest quality. Production included human genre figures, vases and exotic bronze models of animals probably influenced by the opening of Tokyo Zoological Gardens in 1882. The present piece is a brilliant example of Seiya's naturalistic bronzes.

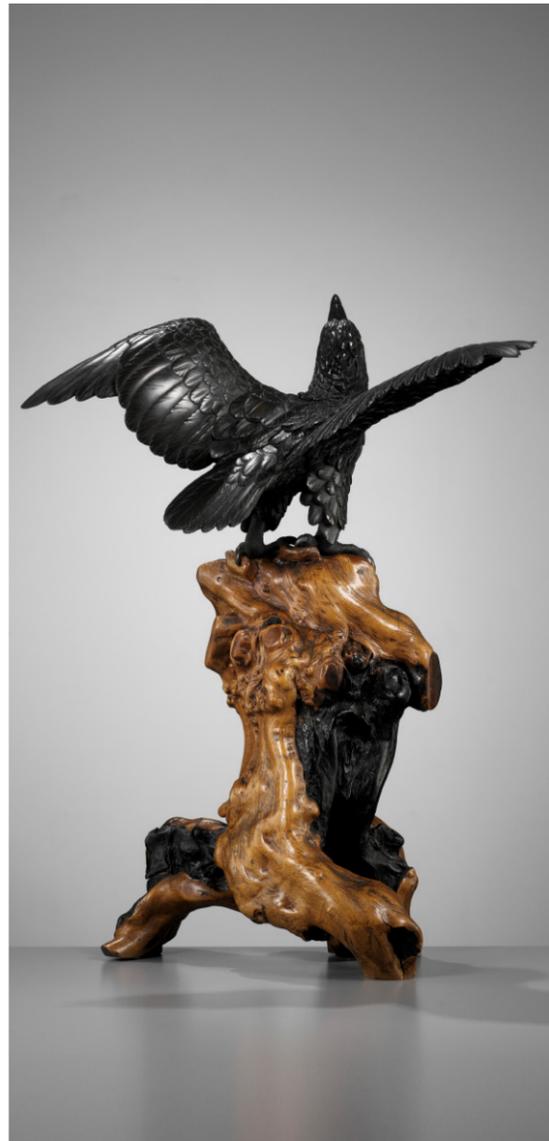
AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related bronze model of an eagle by Genryusai Seiya, 92.2 cm wide, with a gnarled wood stand as opposed to the bronze base of the present lot, at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 22 March 2001, lot 226 (sold for 17,625 USD).



Estimate EUR 15,000
 Starting price EUR 8,000





85
**AKASOFU GYOKKO:
AN IMPRESSIVE AND RARE BRONZE
OKIMONO OF AN ASCENDING EAGLE**

By Akasofu Gyokko (Gyoko), signed Gyokko
Japan, late 19th century- early 20th century, Meiji period
(1868-1912)

Finely cast, the bronze patinated to a highly attractive, almost black finish, the majestic bird about to soar but as of now still perched atop a gnarled rootwood base, its wings bent backwards, stretched out and head raised toward the sky, the details such as the curved beak, gilt-ringed pupils, and incised plumage neatly rendered, the bronze signed within a rectangular reserve underneath GYOKKO.

HEIGHT 45 cm (incl. base), WIDTH 43 cm
WEIGHT 5,770 g (the eagle), 2,874 g (the base)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
Provenance: British collection.

Akasofu Gyokko (dates unknown) lived in Tokyo, his factory producing cast metalwork for export. His given name was Sotojiro and he is recorded as a member of the Tokyo Chukinkai (Tokyo Cast Metalworkers' Association) in the second half of the Meiji era.

The posture of the present eagle is to be considered extremely rare. While many similar Meiji bronzes show various birds of prey preparing for flight with their wings extended, the position of the head and wings of the present bronze is rather unique.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare to a similar bronze of an eagle, by Kaneya, sold at Bonhams, Traditional Travel Transition, Japanese Art across the Centuries, 4 November 2021, London, lot 150 (sold for 9,562 GBP).



Estimate EUR 10,000
Starting price EUR 5,000





86
**AN UNUSUAL BRONZE AND WOOD GROUP
 DEPICTING A HAWK ON A BIRDHOUSE**

The hawk by Nojiri Hidechika for the Genryusai Seiya workshop, signed Hidechika and sealed Seiya chu Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The majestic bird of prey naturalistically cast with finely incised plumage, ring-punched claws, elegantly curved beak, and gilt eyes with black pupils, perched on a gnarled branch atop the roof of a Japonisme hardwood lantern-form birdhouse, the roof decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with aogai inlays to depict autumnal maple leaves borne on twisted vines, above the birdhouse with four intricately carved panels depicting phoenixes, framed by bands of key-fret, the stand and feet incised with stylized flowerheads and foliate scroll. Signed underneath the eagle HIDECHIKA and with seal mark SEIYA chu [by Hidechika, cast by the Seiya workshop].

HEIGHT 22.5 cm (the bird), 104.5 cm (total)
 WEIGHT 3.92 kg (the bird), 9.32 kg (total)

Condition: The hawk's feet with restorations and replaced screws, a loss to one claw, and traces of soldering. The stand with losses to inlays and lacquer, minor chips and scratches, expected age cracks. Provenance: French private collection.

Genryusai Seiya was a master craftsman in charge of a workshop specializing in export wares of the highest quality. Production included human genre figures, vases and exotic bronze models of animals probably influenced by the opening of Tokyo Zoological Gardens in 1882. The present piece is a brilliant example of Seiya's naturalistic bronzes.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare to a closely related bronze of an eagle, by Seiya, sold at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 16 September 2003, New York, lot 344 (sold for 6,573 USD).

Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000





87
**ATSUYOSHI FOR THE MARUKI COMPANY:
 A MASTERFUL PORTRAIT BRONZE OKIMONO
 OF A STRIDING HORSE**

By Miyabe Atsuyoshi for the Maruki company, signed Atsuyoshi saku and Maruki shachu sei Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The horse mounted to a carved wood base, its posture imbued with movement, the mane and sweeping tail naturalistically modeled and heightened with fine incision work. The muscular body of the horse is superbly crafted, several bulging veins worked in low relief add to the superior realism of the bronze. Signed to the underside of the belly **ATSUYOSHI saku** [made by Atsuyoshi] and with a square seal **MARUKI shachu sei** [manufactured at the Maruki company].

HEIGHT 32 cm, LENGTH 37 cm
 WEIGHT 4,684 g

Condition: Excellent condition. Only very minor, expected wear.

Miyabe Atsuyoshi, art name Ikkodo, is recorded in Wakayama Takeshi, *Kinko Jiten* (Dictionary of Metalworkers), Tokyo, Tokon Shunju Shinbunsha, 1999, p. 1141, as being a maker of sword fittings and a pupil of Shinoyama Tokuoki (1813-1891), active in Kyoto during the late Edo period and early Meiji era. Atsuyoshi is known for a number of finely modeled bronze studies of both wild and domesticated animals, almost all of them made for the Maruki Company.

The Maruki Company was active during the Meiji Period (1868-1912) in Japan, they stand out for the quality and weight of their okimono and are known for producing fine bronzes of animals.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

A related bronze okimono of a bear, bearing the same signature and mark and by Atsuyoshi for the Maruki company, was sold at Bonhams, *Ancient Skills, New Worlds Twenty Treasures of Japanese Metalwork from a Private Collection*, 12 September 2018, New York, lot 19 (**sold for 21,250 USD**).



Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000



88
**KAKUHA: A FINE BRONZE OKIMONO
 OF A STRIDING BACTRIAN CAMEL**

By Kakuha, signed Kakuha sei Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Naturalistically modeled, walking forwards, the head raised, with shaggy fur and neatly detailed facial features. Signed within a square reserve underneath **KAKUHA sei**.

HEIGHT 24.6 cm
 WEIGHT 3,532 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: Old German private collection, acquired prior to 2007.

Kakuha Kanzaemon IX, real name Kakuha Zenjiro, was a member of a lineage of metalworkers from Toyama. In 1869, he started a branch office in the port of Yokohama for the export trade of bronze ware, also acting as a retailer for foreign clients in Japan.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related bronze of a Bactrian camel, by Seiya, sold at Koller, *Asian Art*, 3 June 2015, Zurich, lot 379 (**sold for 4,500 CHF**). Another closely related bronze of a camel, by Yoshihara, was sold at Sotheby's, *The Collection of Craig Wright*, 30 September 2011, New York, lot 192 (**sold for 5,938 USD**).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500





89
**TSUDA EIJU: A BRONZE OKIMONO
 OF A SNAKE ON A ROCK**

By Tsuda Eiju (1915-2001), signed Tsuda Eiju
 Japan, Showa period (1926-1989)

Well cast as a sinuous serpent writhing along a withered craggy rock, the eyes gilt, the bronze finely patinated to a warm copper tone. The flat base signed TSUDA EIJU.

LENGTH 19 cm
 WEIGHT 1,722 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

With the original signed wood tomobako.

Tsuda Eiju (1915-2000) was a pupil and successor of Tsuda Shinobu (1875-1946). He showed his work at the special exhibition celebrating the 2600th anniversary of the imperial line, held in 1940, and won several prizes at the Nitten exhibition during the post-war period.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

90
**ISHIDA KAZUMASA: A FINE BRONZE
 'TOAD AND HYOTAN' VASE**

By Ishida Kazumasa (Issei), signed Kazumasa
 Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely cast as a toad struggling to hold up a large double gourd, the frog's skin naturalistically modeled, its eyes of gilt with shakudo pupils, the dark bronze patination of the frog providing an appealing contrast to the lighter bronze patina of the gourd. Signed in a recessed reserve KAZUMASA.

HEIGHT 28.8 cm
 WEIGHT 2,688 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, light surface scratches, small casting flaws.

Ishida Kazumasa (Issei), given name Seiji, studied metal art in Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture. In the mid-Meiji Period, he went to Tokyo (Shimogaya district, Kamigyō, Tokyo) and worked in the metal art industry as a member of the Tokyo Chukin Kai (Tokyo Cast Metal Association). Ishida Kazumasa belongs to the Otake Norukuni line of metal crafting in Tokyo.



A bronze group of boys trapping birds by Ishida Kazumasa was exhibited in 1906 and was awarded a silver medal

Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000



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**AN EXCEPTIONAL AND
VERY LARGE SILK EMBROIDERED
'SEVEN DRAGON' WALL HANGING**

Japan, c. 1880, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The large tapestry finely embroidered in silk primarily in brown, cream, salmon, light blue, and black, with one large confronting dragon and six smaller dragons, all three-clawed, cavorting amid intricately defined clouds tufted in various shades of gray, beige, and blue silk threads, a magic pearl (tama) on the top.

SIZE 248 x 143 cm



Condition: Good condition with typical wear, minimal soiling, very few loose threads, minor losses.

The aesthetic of the present tapestry owes significantly to the Chinese Imperial design language of the Ming and Qing dynasties and the corresponding ceremonial tastes. Unlike most Chinese dragons, the Japanese version has only three claws, enabling the artist to make them larger and thus more threatening. Also, there are no metal-wrapped gold or silver thread embellishments present. The artist has relinquished the usage of such superficial decorations to instead ultimately focus on the dominance, not to say menacing appearance of the main confronting dragon. His portrayal is astounding in its sophistication and maturity. Its fierce countenance is imbued with a sense of agility and gravity. The dynamic depiction with its head facing the observer and three powerful open claws appears to be a variation of the forward-facing dragon found on blue and white ceramics developed from the Yuan period onwards.

The inspiration for this unusually striking example probably originated from Southern Song paintings such as those by Chen Rong (c. 1200-1266). Compare with two paintings in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA, the first titled *Silongtu*, 'Painting of Four Dragons', see the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, accession no. 14.50. Also compare to a second painting by Chen Rong titled *Jiulongtu*, 'Painting of Nine Dragons', see the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, accession no. 17.1697.



**Detail from the *Jiulongtu*,
'Painting of Nine Dragons',
by Chen Rong**

The dragon on the current tapestry is closely related to the dragons painted by Chen Rong in both style and spirit. The additional short spiky bristles in front of tufts of long flowing hair at the elbows of the dragon have not been seen on many occasions, but they do appear on Chen Rong's dragons. Also, the dragons appearing in the *Jiulongtu* are each depicted with its neck flexed and tail extending, using the tension around the neck to indicate movement. The juxtaposition of tension and ease, movement and stillness, is akin to the confronting dragon depicted on the present tapestry.

Chen Rong's dragons have been widely revered and imitated since the Song and Yuan periods, and the Xuande Emperor - as an avid art patron and competent artist - welcomed their influence on Imperial wares, which in turn were highly admired by Japanese artists of subsequent generations. Their ability to transition ancient Chinese painting techniques into different media, such as lacquer, wood carving, metal casting and tapestry, however, is unrivalled.

Another highlight on the current wall hanging is the scattered cloud scrolls. They have been strategically placed and shaped according to the space available, not only filling the voids but also being aesthetically pleasing. They are particularly creative, breaking up the otherwise monotonous symmetry of the seven dragons.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related silk hanging of a dragon, once hung in a Buddhist temple in Japan, of related size (270 x 178 cm), in the Victoria and Albert Museum, accession number T.132-1927.



Estimate EUR 15,000
Starting price EUR 8,000





92
**A LARGE FRAMED
 'CRANES' SILK EMBROIDERY**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely embroidered in various shades of brown and cream, with black, red, and white accents, depicting five red-crested cranes wading through reeds near a river in a grove of leafy bamboo. With a brown brocade border, backed, and framed.

SIZE 190 x 134 cm (total) and 181.5 x 126 cm (image only)

Condition: Good condition, some wear, loose threads, and small tears.
 Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related large, embroidered silk wall hanging with cranes, Meiji to Taisho period (1868-1926), of related size (195-124 cm), at Bonhams, Asian Works of Art, 16 March 2010, San Francisco, lot 8442 (sold for 3,660 USD).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000

93
**A SILK EMBROIDERED PANEL DEPICTING
 A PAIR OF JAPANESE CHIN DOGS**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely woven on a black-colored silk ground, the two long-haired dogs seated in obedient poses with attentive expressions, each wearing a ruffled collar, one red and the other blue.

SIZE 32 x 42.5 cm (image) and 44.4 x 54.5 cm (incl. frame)

Framed behind glass.

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, some loose threads, very minor soiling.

The Japanese Chin, also known as the Japanese Spaniel, is a dog acknowledged for its importance to Japanese nobility. The dogs have a dot or a line on their forehead, which is associated with the touch of Buddha. While most believe that the source breed for the Japanese Chin originated in China, the route by which the Chin arrived in Japan is a widely debated topic. One story claims that the dogs were given to the Japanese royalty in AD 732 as gifts from the rulers of Korea. Others maintain that they were given as gifts to the Empress of Japan as early as the middle of the sixth century or by the seventh century.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related embroidered panel depicting pointer dogs by Aiko, also dated to the Meiji period, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 6 November 2014, London, lot 217 (sold for 4,375 GBP).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



Alexandra of Denmark with her Japanese Chin, named Punch, originally painted by Sir Luke Fildes in 1893



94

**SESSON SHUKEI:
A SCROLL PAINTING OF FUKUROKUJU**

School of Sesson Shukei (1504-1589), signed Sesson Shukei with one seal
Japan, 17th-18th century, early Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in ink on paper, with a silk brocade frame and mounted as a hanging scroll, depicting the lucky god Fukurokuju holding with both hands a small scroll to his head, his mouth obscured but the eyes at least seemingly betraying an unusually serious expression, his cowl and wide sleeves rendered with bold, dynamic brushstrokes, the brows and beard are painted with dense brushwork, his nostril hairs with short lines, and the contours and wrinkles of his face with dynamic brushstrokes.

SIZE 110 x 50 cm (image) and 190 x 70 cm (total)

Condition: Good condition with old wear, creasing, soiling,
Provenance: German private collection.

Sesson Shukei (1504-1589) was a Japanese Zen monk and painter from the Muromachi period. He was born a member of the Satake clan, but left after being disinherited by his father and was inducted as a monk at Shoso-ji temple, the Satake bodaiji. Sesson was a master of ink painting, ranked with Sesshu Toyo, one of the greatest painters in Japanese history, and worked in a dramatic style that generally accentuated idiosyncrasy, humor, and exaggeration in his approach to subjects, whether figural or landscape.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related painting of Jurojin by Sesson Shukei, 136.5 x 70.6 cm, in the collection of the Freer Gallery of Art in the National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, accession number F2015.6a-d. Also compare to a closely related painting of Daruma, School of Sesson Shukei, dated 17th-18th century, in the British Museum, accession no. 1913,0501,0.109.



Estimate EUR 4,000
Starting price EUR 2,000





96
**KOTO YOSHIN:
 A FINE KANO SCHOOL PAINTING OF
 'SCHOLAR READING A SCROLL'**

By Koto Yoshin, signed Yoshin hitsu (Painted by Yoshin) and seals Yoho and Fujiwara Japan, 1830-1850

Remarkably detailed painting depicting a bearded scholar wearing voluminous robes and a prominent headdress, holding a fan in one hand, seated on a barrel stool at a table and reading a scroll unrolled before him. Ink on very fine silk. With a yellow silk brocade frame, laid down on board.

Condition: Good condition, as expected and commensurate with age. With old wear and traces of use, soiling, browning, foxing, creasing, small losses, minor touchups.
 Provenance: From an English private collection.

SIZE 59 x 42.7 cm (image), SIZE 78 x 68.7 cm (incl. mounting)

Koto Yoshin (active 1830-1850), son of Koto Yozan (circa 1780-1846) of the Kano School painting. They were originally from Satsuma Province (in modern Kagoshima Prefecture) but settled in Edo. Both worked in the atelier of the Kobikicho branch of the Kano School painting. Koto Yoshin studied under his father and Kano Seisen'in Yasunobu (Kano Osanobu: 1796-1846), 9th head of the Kobikicho branch of the Kano School Painting, Edo (Tokyo).

As a customary practice carried out by the Kano School atelier, Koto Yoshin took part in various projects of copying Chinese paintings in famous collections, such as a painting of a bunch of wild narcissus flowers which was originally painted by the Chinese master painter Zhao Mengfu 趙孟頫 (1254-1322); the copy (dated 1843) by Yoshin is now in the National Museum of Tokyo collection.

A stack of books rests beside the scroll, a small censer on an incense stand (xiangji) as well as further scrolls, a lacquer box, various vessels, and other scholar's objects on a high table behind a standing screen painted in magnificent quality with crashing waves, all behind a large curtain with floral roundels to the right side.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



95
A PAINTING OF SHOKI, MUROMACHI TO EARLY EDO

Japan, 16th-17th century, Muromachi period (1333-1573) to early Edo period (1615-1868)

Depicting Shoki, dressed in a voluminous robe tightened at the waist with a band, holding a fine sword with elaborate handle in his right hand, the sheath hanging behind his back. The face with a fierce expression, framed by his bushy beard. Ink on paper. Framed behind glass.

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, some foxing, few wormholes, some creasing, and small tears at the edges, possibly few minor old repairs.
 Provenance: German private collection.

SIZE 58.1 x 38.7 cm (image),
 SIZE 82 x 56 cm (incl. frame)

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare to a related scroll painting of Shoki mounted on a horse, offered at Bonhams, The Ethereal Brush, 10 November 2016, London, lot 4 (estimate 30,000-50,000 GBP)



Compare to a related scroll painting of Shoki fighting a tiger, by Sesson Shukei (1504-1589), in the Kyoto National Museum, Japan

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



97
**KANO YUSEN HIRONOBU:
 A KANO SCHOOL SILK PAINTING OF HORSES**

By Kano Yusen Hironobu (1778-1815), signed Yusen Hogen ga, with seal Hironobu
 Japan, 1808-1815, Edo period (1615-1868)

Well painted in ink and watercolors on silk to depict eleven gamboling and grazing horses beside old gnarled trees, each animal neatly detailed, with a variety of poses and differently colored coats, some with spotted fur. With a silk brocade mounting and framed behind glass. Signed to the lower right YUSEN hogen ga, with red seal Hironobu.

SIZE 45 x 74 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, soiling, and creasing.
 Provenance: Austrian private collection.

Kano Yusen Hironobu (1778-1815) was the fifth generation head of Hamacho branch of the Kano School. In 1808, he received the honorary title of Hogen. The artist is mentioned in Roberts, Laurance P. (1990) A Dictionary of Japanese Artists, p. 207.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related painting of two horses by Kano Yasunobu (1613-1685), 113.3 x 135.5 cm, at Christie's, Japanese & Korean Art, 11 September 2012, New York, lot 3 (sold for 3,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



98
**BAISEN: A FINE PAIR OF KANO SCHOOL
 'FALCON' SCROLL PAINTINGS**

By Baisen (Umekawa), signed Baisen hitsu with seal
 Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Painted in ink and watercolors on silk, with a silk brocade frame, and mounted as a hanging scroll, each scroll depicting a falcon, one grooming, the other perched on a gnarly pine branch, its steely glare focused on the far distance, their eyes and feet accentuated in vibrant yellow colors. Each signed BAISEN hitsu [made by Baisen] and with two red seals.

SIZE 79.2 x 31.2 cm (image), 158 x 43.3 cm (incl. mounting)

Condition: Good condition, the images with few stains and some creasing, the mounts with creasing, few minuscule holes, small stains, and loose threads.
 Provenance: French private collection.



With a wooden box, inscribed: "Baisen hitsu, taka no e, nifuku tsui, shigatsu nanoka, Chosai no shozou" [Painting by Baisen, a pair of hanging scrolls of hawks, collection of Chosai, 7th day in the fourth month].

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related scroll painting of an eagle by Kano Chikanobu, 17th-18th century, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 36.100.7.



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



99

**KISHI GANKU:
A SUPERB AND VERY LARGE
PAINTING OF A TIGER**

By Kishi Ganku (1749-1839), signed Echizen no kami Ganku with two seals, Ganku and Fuzen
Japan, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted with ink and watercolors on silk depicting a ferocious roaring tiger, seated on its haunches as it turns to one side, showing its sharp teeth, its tail raised in the air, the striped fur neatly rendered with needle-like brushstrokes, signed upper left Echizen no kami GANKU [Ganku, honorary governor of Echizen] with two seals, Ganku and Fuzen, both of which are art names of Kishi Ganku.

An unusually large and expressive painting by the great tiger painter Kishi Ganku (1749-1839), who was perhaps only rivaled by his contemporary Maruyama Okyo (1733-1795).

SIZE 177.5 x 108 cm (total) and 142 x 87.2 cm (image only)

Condition: Good condition with some wear, creasing, minor soiling.
Provenance: French private collection.

With a silk brocade mounting and framed behind glass. The reverse with an old Japanese newspaper clipping, likely from a local newspaper published in Toyama Prefecture, describing Kishi Ganku as a painter famed for depicting the tiger, and a small label reading 'Kanda Chihoko', possibly from a previous owner.

Kishi Ganku (1749-1839) was a leading Japanese painter of Kyoto and founder of the Kishi school of painting. He is famous for his paintings of tigers. Ganku was born in Kanazawa as Kishi Saeki, studied painting styles including those of Chinese painter Shen Nanpin and the Maruyama-Shijo school, and arrived in Kyoto around 1780. By the late 18th century, Ganku's paintings were appreciated by patrons that included the imperial family, leading to a position under Prince Arisugawa. His students included his son, Gantai (1782-1865), son-in-law Ganryou (1797-1852), adopted son Renzan (1804-59), Yokoyama Kazan (1784-1837), Shirai Kayou (fl. ca 1840-60), and Kawamura Bumpou (1779-1821). He was made honorary governor of Echizen (Echizen no kami) toward the end of his life.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:
Compare to a closely related scroll painting of a tiger by Kishi Ganku, measuring 106.7 x 41 cm, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Accession no. 6.100.11.



AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a related scroll painting of a tiger by Kishi Gantai, a son of Kishi Ganku, measuring 84 x 113.7 cm, at Bonhams, Japanese Works of Art, 19 March 2009, New York, lot 308 (sold for 15,860 USD).



Estimate EUR 8,000
Starting price EUR 4,000

100
**A FINE SCROLL
 PAINTING OF A TIGER,
 SCHOOL OF MARUYAMA OKYO**

Inscribed Kamei and sealed Anagura and Kameisai
 Japan, Kyoto, late 18th – early 19th century,
 Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in ink and watercolors on silk, with a silk brocade frame and mounted as a hanging scroll, depicting a tiger standing foursquare on a rocky slope, with brown leaves and twisted vines and roots in the background, as well as bamboo leaves below the tiger, calling to mind the popular motif take no tora (tiger in bamboo). The tiger's striped fur is neatly detailed and both its large side-glancing eyes and dynamic pose suggest a certain mischief to the mysterious animal. Inscribed and signed center right, 'KAMEI shujin, Heian shuchikuro chu ni oite utsutsu' ('Painted by Master Kamei, at the Shuchikuro Studio, Kyoto').

SIZE 103 x 51 cm (image) and 178 x 67 cm (total)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, creasing, little soiling, the brocade frame with few minuscule losses to edges.
 Provenance: From a private collection, Illinois.

Although there is no information available about this artist, it is likely that he was a follower of Maruyama Okyo (1733-1795). The name Kamei literally means 'Turtle Abode'. Maruyama Okyo and his students painted numerous paintings of the Daijōji Temple, whose mountain name (sango) is Kamei Temple (also known as Okyo Temple); the commission was carried out at the Okyo's studio in Kyoto, though the Kamei Temple (Okyo Temple) is located in nearby Hyogo.

Tiger imagery has a long history in East Asia. Tigers were frequently paired with dragons—the tiger representing the 'male' principle, the yin to the female 'yang' of the dragon, ancient cosmological symbols. Tigers are also commonly paired with bamboo, which is known as take no tora, or 'tiger in bamboo', and has many different interpretations; the tiger has a strong nature, is flexible and resilient like the bamboo, but it is also said that the strong tiger is looking for shelter underneath the bamboo, as any earthly power is inferior to the forces of nature. Moreover, the tiger and bamboo represent the power of faith in Buddhism.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related painting of a tiger, described as "School of Maruyama Okyo", 104 x 15.5 cm, at Christie's, Japanese & Korean Art, 23 March 2011, New York, lot 879 (sold for 10,000 USD).

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



101
**A FINE MORI SCHOOL SCROLL
 PAINTING OF TWO MONKEYS
 ON A PINE TREE**

School of Mori Sosen (1747-1821), with two seals, one reading Tadamichi 忠道
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in ink and watercolors on silk, with a silk brocade frame, and mounted as a hanging scroll, depicting two monkeys clambering a gnarly pine branch, playfully looking at each other. Two red seals to the bottom right. The reverse with an inscribed Japanese label 'Tadamichi, Monkeys'. With ivory jiku (roller ends).

SIZE 95.5 x 36 cm (image), 172.9 x 43.3 cm (incl. mounting)

Condition: Very good condition, the image with few minuscule stains and minor creasing, the mounts with some foxing, stains, few creases, and little browning.
 Provenance: French private collection.

Mori Sosen (1747-1821), the founder of the Mori painting School, was active in Osaka at the end of the Edo period and came to be known as the 'Monkey Painter Sosen,' and he is renowned even today for his monkey paintings. Like his contemporary Maruyama Okyo, Sosen created works based on sketches from life as is finely exemplified by the painting presented here, where the artist has beautifully captured the realism of the details of the animals' soft fur in the refined delicacy of the brushstrokes.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related scroll painting of two monkeys on a pine branch by Mori Sosen, in the British Museum, museum number 1881,1210,0.2279.

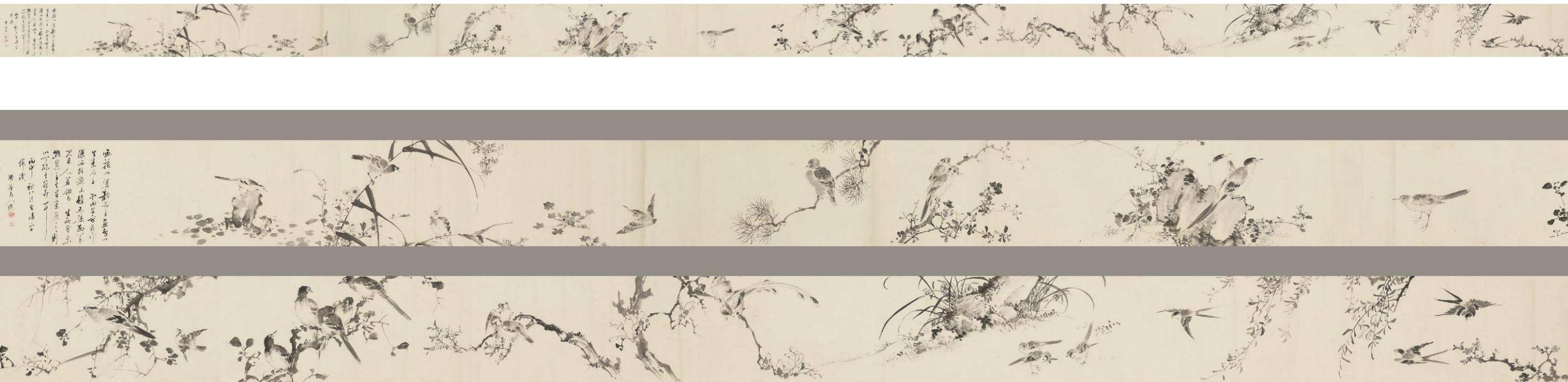


AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related scroll painting of two monkeys on a pine branch by Mori Sosen, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 11 May 2010, London, lot 132 (sold for 15,600 GBP).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





102
**URAGAMI SHUNKIN:
 A 14-METER HANDSCROLL
 WITH BIRDS AND FLOWERS,
 DATED 1836 BY INSCRIPTION**

By Uragami Shunkin (1779-1846), signed Uragami Shunkin
 Japan, dated 3 August 1846

Finely painted with ink on paper, depicting various birds and flowers, including sparrows below willow trees, paradise flycatchers, cherry blossoms, magnolias, magpies, starlings, a cuckoo on a pine branch, water chestnut trees and kingfisher, as well as wagtails and asters. Inscribed with a title, Kacho ga, dated 3 August 1836, sealed Kisennoin and Shunkin Koji, and signed URAGAMI SHUNKIN.

LENGTH 14.1 m, WIDTH 27.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, soiling, and creasing.

Provenance: The collection of Teddy Hahn (1933-2012), thence by descent. Theodor "Teddy" Hahn was a well-known and respected collector of netsuke and other Asian works of art. After spending time in museums to study the early cultures of the world, finding particular interest in their sculptures, he began collecting, remarking, "I somehow knew it would have a profound influence on my life. How right I was. And how happy I have been."



Teddy Hahn (1933-2012)

With a wood storage box inscribed Kacho Shunkin hitsu, Uragami Shunkin Kacho zu maki, Tenpo Heiko hitsu.

Uragami Shunkin (1779-1846) was a Japanese nanga (literati) painter who lived during the late Edo period. He was born in Bizen Province (present-day Okayama Prefecture) as the first son of Uragami Gyokudo, who was a samurai for the Ikeda daimyo at the time. He learned painting and calligraphy from his father when he was a child. Around 1792, the art dealer Nyoji Dojin began buying Gyokudo's as well as Shunkin's works. Uragami Shunkin later settled in Kyoto, establishing himself as a Literati painter conversant in the related arts of poetry, calligraphy, and playing the koto, the musical instrument that had been one of his father's fortes. Shunkin, who was active in the intellectual and literary circle of Rai Sanyo (1780-1832) and others in Kyoto, also achieved a reputation as a connoisseur of antique paintings, calligraphies, inkstones, and metalwork, all of which he collected himself.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a smaller handscroll attributed to Uragami Shunkin depicting scholar's rocks, 24.6 x 492.5 cm, at Bonhams, 25 June 2019, San Francisco, lot 311 (sold for 5,075 USD).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



103
**A RARE NANBAN SIX-PANEL BYOBU SCREEN
 DEPICTING THE ARRIVAL OF A PORTUGUESE SHIP**

Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely painted in ink, watercolors, and gold on paper to depict a Portuguese ship arriving at the port of Nagasaki. The ship is filled with passengers and sailors, some of which perform acrobatic feats as they prepare to dock. A number of smaller boats are approaching land as well, while two boats which are heavily filled with goods are departing. A group of Portuguese men are carrying large boxes and leading a spotted deer toward a bridge, one of the men appears to shrug as he tries to communicate with two Japanese men. The two rightmost panels show a chaotic scene of numerous Japanese and Portuguese men carrying goods in all directions, as well as a fenced terrace with Portuguese noblemen seated at a table and enjoying tea and wine. The screen is further decorated with thick, gold-sprinkled clouds.

SIZE (when opened) 88 x 259 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, minor soiling, occasional light scratches, and few small losses.

The scene presents a narrative of the dynamic conflation of East and West around 1600. Portuguese traders reached Japan in 1543, and by 1570 they had selected the Bay of Nagasaki as the ideal natural harbor for the center of their commerce, which was conducted with little or no restriction. The Portuguese nau do trato was known to the Japanese as the kurofune (black ship) or nanban bune, ship of the Nanban, or Southern Barbarians, so called because these foreigners arrive from the south. (The term originated in China, where all foreigners were regarded as barbarians.)

The Portuguese made large profits selling Chinese silk to the Japanese in exchange for silver. Some European goods were traded, but for the most part the Iberians served as middlemen between the Chinese and Japanese. The great ship was a three-deck carrack of up to 1,600 tons, and its enormous size and exotic crew and cargo were the cause of much wonder and excitement.

The earliest screen of this type is thought to date from the 1590s and is attributed to Kano Mitsunobu (1561/5-1608), who was called from Kyoto to decorate Hideyoshi's Nagoya Castle in northern Kyushu. Mitsunobu may have traveled to Nagasaki to observe the "Southern Barbarians" first hand. The fad for Nanban screens continued into the second quarter of the seventeenth century. The novel subject fascinated the Japanese, and the Kano-school atelier as well as other professional painting studios in Kyoto made numerous versions in the early seventeenth century for clientele prepared to enjoy the strange costumes and odd physiognomy of these tall, hairy and long-nosed Southern Barbarians, a throwback to the outlandish imagery familiar from the iconography of Daoist immortals.

Museum comparison: Compare to a related pair of Nanban screens, dated to the first quarter of the 17th century, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, accession no. 2015.300.109.1, .2.

AUCTION COMPARISON: Compare to a related important Namban screen, dated to the 17th century, sold at Christie's, European Courts Encounter Japan, 11 May 2015, London, lot 8 (sold for 818,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 8,000
 Starting price EUR 4,000

**AN IMPRESSIVE PAIR OF
SIX-PANEL BYOBU SCREENS DEPICTING
A DOG-CHASING EVENT (INOUMONO)**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely decorated with ink, watercolors, and gold foil on paper to depict a large dog-chasing event (inoumono) watched by numerous spectators standing outside the fenced area, along with street vendors and entertainers as well as other contestants, amid gnarled pine and maple trees, as horse-mounted archers chase dogs of all stripes and colors, pointing their large padded arrows at the fleeing canines, with some dogs held by leashes by attendants on foot, including two attendants and three dogs resting under a tree as the chaotic scene unfolds, framed by thick clouds.

SIZE 171.8 x 63.5 cm (each panel) and SIZE (when opened) 171.8 x 367 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and little soiling, some expected tears and creases, the wood screen with minor nicks and scratches and some old repairs.

Provenance: From the collection of L. Harrison Bernbaum, Chicago, Illinois, USA. L. Harrison Bernbaum is a Chicago businessman who co-founded the outdoor company High Sierra with his father Harry Bernbaum (1917-2015), who had been one of the first American businessmen to travel to Japan in 1956, helping to pioneer manufacturing relationships between America and Japan for the American sporting goods industry.



Harry Bernbaum and his wife, Harriet, on a buying trip to Japan in the 1950s

With a silk brocade frame and mounted to a brown-lacquered screen with parcel-gilt fittings decorated with blossoming flowers and foliate scroll.

Shooting dogs from horseback was a form of samurai training that began in the Muromachi period (1392–1573). During the peaceful 1600s this activity was revived as a samurai sporting event that attracted many spectators. As a sport, dog chasing involved two teams of seventeen participants each. The riders used softly padded arrows in order not to seriously hurt the dog, which was released within a circle of rope to begin the game. A strike on the dog's torso scored points; strikes on the head or legs did not count. The winning team usually received prizes of lengths of white silk cloth. The present screen shows the game in progress, with the judges sitting in the building at the left of the field. As many as eighteen pairs of screens on this subject are known in Japan and the West. Later examples, such as this pair, show greater numbers of spectators, probably reflecting the growing popularity of the sport.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related six-panel folding screen, also depicting a dog-chasing event, dated approx. 1640, in the collection of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, object number B60D1.



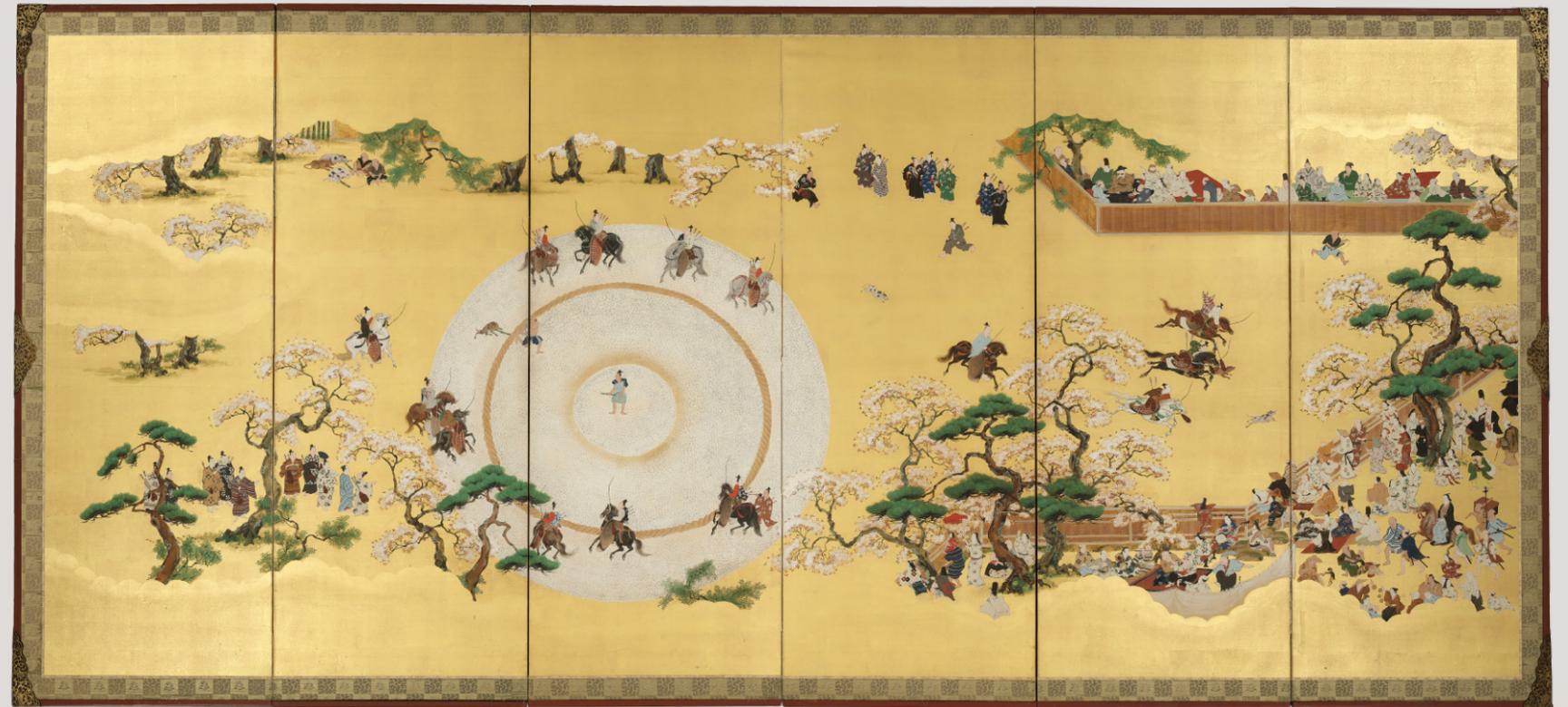
AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related single six-panel folding screen, also depicting a dog-chasing event, dated 17th-18th century, 171.5 x 370.8 cm, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Works of Art, 19 March 2014, New York, lot 3098 (bought-in at an estimate of USD 20,000-30,000).



Estimate EUR 15,000

Starting price EUR 8,000







105
**A PAIR OF FINE SIX-PANEL
 BYOBU SCREENS DEPICTING
 SPARROWS AND BAMBOO**

Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Each finely decorated with ink, watercolors, and gold foil to depict sparrows amid thickly growing bamboo and wispy clouds, further painted with flowers growing from craggy rocks and swirling streams and ponds, all within a silk brocade frame and mounted to a black-lacquered wood screen with partly gilt metal fittings with incised and ring-punched decorations. The many birds are meticulously painted, each neatly detailed and slightly different from the others. The bamboo stalks have also been given close attention by the artist, with many segments having turned yellow to brown. Note also the fine gold foil technique and clouds.

SIZE (each when opened) 177 x 377 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, little soiling, occasional light scratches, and few minuscule losses.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

Estimate EUR 20,000
 Starting price EUR 10,000





106
**A FINE SIX-PANEL
 BYŌBU SCREEN DEPICTING
 CRANES AND PINES**

Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely decorated with ink, watercolors, and gold foil to depict a dense forest of neatly detailed gnarled pine trees divided by a stream in which four red-capped cranes are frolicking, one preening itself, another looking for fish in the water, a third with its head raised toward the sky, all within a silk brocade frame and mounted to a black-lacquered wood screen with gilt metal fittings with incised and ring-punched decorations. Note the fine gold foil technique used to depict both the ground and cloudy sky.

SIZE (when opened) 171.8 x 367 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, little soiling, occasional light scratches, and few minuscule losses.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

The crane is one of the most prominent symbols of longevity and good fortune in Asia. For at least two millennia, the Chinese have viewed them as living to a great age and as being able to navigate between heaven and earth. In turn, these attributes have made them logical companions of sennin, the Taoist Immortals. The red-crowned, or Japanese, crane depicted in this painting is said to live for 1,000 years.

Pine is an auspicious symbol in Japan, representing longevity due to its long life, and endurance as it remains green throughout the winter months. The pine trees depicted in this painting introduce a freshness and liveliness which complements the spirited movements of the cranes.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related six-panel screen with cranes and pine, dated 18th century, 107 x 273 cm, at Christie's, 28 July 2015, London, lot 1 (**sold for 12,500 GBP**). Compare a related six-panel screen with cranes, dated 18th century, 178.8 x 373 cm, at Christie's, 8 December 2016, London, lot 111 (**sold for 50,000 GBP**).

Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000



107
**UTAGAWA YOSHITSUYA:
 A COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINT TRIPTYCH
 DEPICTING KOGAKURE NO KIRITARO, DATED 1861**

By Utagawa Yoshitsuya (1822-1866), signed Ichieisai Yoshitsuyaga
 ga
 Japan, dated 1861

A fantastic scene of the warrior Kogakure no Kiritaro using witchcraft to hide himself from three men attacking his palanquin. An enormous snake emerges in a cloud of smoke from the palanquin window, with Kiritaro riding atop its back at left, his hands clasped in a magical gesture as he casts a spell. The serpent bares its fang as a line of rats comes scampering out of his mouth, running across the scene. In the center, Waniguchi Jinsuke falls back on one knee, flinging his hand out at his side as he glares up at the creature. At right, his companions Masakino Torazo and Kazama Hanjiro watch with alarmed grimaces. Pine trees frame the dark night sky and a swirl of leaves is swept through the air.

OBAN 36 x 23.5 cm (each print)

Condition: Excellent condition, very good impression, fresh colors.
 Provenance: French private collection.

The present triptych is from the series *Kyokuyaku Suikoden no uchi* (Shuihuzhan of the mirror) and is titled *Kogakure no Kiritaro yojuutsu o motte tsugata o kaku* (Kogakure no Kiritaro hides himself using witchcraft). The series was published by Kameya Iwakichi between 1861 and 1863. This triptych is dated to the sixth month of 1861.

Utagawa Yoshitsuya (1822-1866) was a Japanese designer of ukiyo-e woodblock prints. Yoshitsuya was a student of Utagawa Kuniyoshi and, like his teacher, is best known for his woodblock prints of warriors.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare another example of this triptych by Utagawa Yoshitsuya at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 20 September 2022, New York, lot 258 (sold for 5,292 USD).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



108
**UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI:
 A RARE COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINT TRIPTYCH
 DEPICTING TADATSUNE SLAYING A GIANT BOAR**

By Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861), signed Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi ga
 Japan, published 1847-1853

Depicting Nitta Tadatsune slaying a giant boar, which has already been hit by several arrows, during the grand hunting event Fuji no Makigari arranged by shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo in 1193 at the foot of Mount Fuji. The scene is quite chaotic, with fleeing animals chased by mounted archers and the shogun's gokenin (retainers) with their beaters, all amid gnarled pine trees. Signed ICHYUSAI KUNIYOSHI, with double nanushi censor seals. The print was published by Joshuya Kinzo between 1847 and 1853. Matted and framed.

OBAN 36.2 x 24.6 cm (each print)

Condition: Good condition, color, and impression. Minor soiling and creasing.
 Provenance: From a Canadian private collection. The reverse with a handwritten note.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related triptych woodblock print by Utagawa Kuniyoshi, depicting Doji Yoshiharu overthrowing a giant boar in the forest, at Christie's, 22 June 2017, London, lot 112 (sold for 2,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000

109
**UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI: A COLOR WOODBLOCK
 PRINT OF BENKEI FIGHTING A GIANT CARP**

By Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861), signed Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi ga
 Japan, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The young warrior-monk wrestling a giant carp that had eaten its mother, engulfed in a crashing wave, a stern expression on his face as he subdues the huge fish.

OBAN 36 x 25 cm

Condition: Good condition, color, and impression. Minor soiling. Small tears and losses around the edges.
 Provenance: Austrian private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related woodblock print by Utagawa Kuniyoshi at Bonhams, 12 May 2022, London, lot 382 (sold for 6,375 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500





Cloisonné, Ceramic & Porcelain

Lots 110 to 121



110
**A FINE CLOISSONNÉ KORO (INCENSE BURNER)
AND COVER, STYLE OF HAYASHI KODENJI**

Japan, Nagoya, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The compressed globular body supported on three short feet and rising to a short waisted neck with galleried rim, the shoulder flanked by two foliate handles with incised decoration. Finely worked in silver wire and bright enamels, the black ground decorated with two shaped panels enclosing garden scenes depicting birds and flowers, flanked by wide bands with stylized butterflies, flowerheads, and foliate scroll, further with diapered and tasseled bands, the feet with fierce beast heads, the en-suite cover with a lotus knob finial, the rims and interior gilt.

HEIGHT 12.8 cm, WIDTH 17 cm (across handles)
WEIGHT 598 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related koro and cover, attributed to a Nagoya workshop, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 17 May 2018, London, lot 508 (sold for 6,250 GBP).

Estimate EUR 6,000
Starting price EUR 3,000





111
**ANDO: A CLOISONNÉ
 ENAMEL VASE DEPICTING
 PHEASANTS AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS**

By the Ando company, signed with the Ando company mark Japan, Nagoya, early 20th century, Meiji (1868-1912) to Taisho period (1912-1926)

The broad baluster body supported on a short spreading foot and rising to a waisted neck with flared rim, the sides finely decorated in bright enamels with two pheasants on a rocky outcrop, a stream running between them, amid large leafy chrysanthemums, daisies, and other flowers, all against a deep-blue ground, with floral diapered bands below the rim and above the foot. The rims of silver, the foot rim with a two-character mark 'jungin' (pure silver), and the base with the Ando company mark.

HEIGHT 24.2 cm (excl. stand)
 WEIGHT 1,100 g (excl. stand)

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear and minimal manufacturing irregularities.

Provenance: From the collection of Vice-Admiral Reginald Vesey Holt, CB, DSO, MVO, and thence by descent. The vase was gifted to Vice-Admiral Holt by Admiral Koshiro Oikawa, the Japanese Naval Minister during World War II, as commemorated by the silver plaque on the wood stand. The wood stand further with remnants of an original Ando company label to the base. Koshiro Oikawa (1883-1958) was an admiral in the Imperial Japanese Navy and Naval Minister during World War II. Oikawa was appointed as Minister of the Navy in the second and third cabinets of Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe between 5 September 1940 and 18 October 1941. While Navy Minister, he strove to maintain ties with the United States, and instructed his naval attachés in Washington DC to work together with the Japanese ambassador to prevent war from breaking out. He continued to serve as Naval Councilor until near the end of World War II and was Chief of the Navy General Staff in late 1944 but resigned in May 1945. Vice-Admiral Reginald Vesey Holt, CB, DSO, MVO, (1884-1957) was an officer in the Royal Navy. He commanded a considerable number of destroyers and torpedo craft during World War I. Holt was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral on 15 December, 1939. He was placed on the Retired List at his own request on 4 May, 1940.



Rear-Admiral Reginald Vesey Holt, 1937, National Portrait Gallery, London



Koshiro Oikawa (1883-1958)

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related cloisonné vase by the Ando workshop, dated Taisho period (1912-1926), 30.8 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Works of Art, 18 March 2015, New York, lot 3166 (sold for 3,250 USD).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



The finely carved and openworked wood stand fitted with a silver commemorative plaque inscribed, 'Vice-Admiral R.B. [sic] Holt, January 1940. From K. Oikawa, Admiral I. J. Navy', and incised with a symbol of an anchor and prunus blossom

112
**KINZAN: A CLOISSONNÉ ENAMEL
 SQUARE TRAY WITH COCKEREL AND HEN**

By the Kinzan company, signed Kinzan and with seal Kinzan Japan, late 19th - early 20th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of rounded square form, the design after a painting by Watanabe Seitei (1851-1918), worked in copper wire with a cockerel, hen, and chick against a pale-blue ground, bordered by a band of half-chrysanthemum blossoms and stylized tendrils on a brown ground, the underside decorated with a large peony blossom issuing tendrils above a blue ground, signed KINZAN with a two red seals KINZAN.

SIZE 27.9 x 27.9 cm
 WEIGHT 1,302 g

Condition: Good overall condition, some wear, manufacturing flaws including pitting, small hairlines, few minor losses to the enamels, light surface scratches.
 Provenance: From a private collection, Zagreb.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

The design of the present object is inspired by a painting of rooster and hen with chicks by Watanabe Seitei, a famous artist of the Meiji period (1868-1912), who worked closely with Namikawa Sosuke. Compare a related painting of rooster and hen with chick by Watanabe Seitei, circa 1887, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 14.76.61.54.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related square tray with near-identical motif by Kinzan, of closely related size (27.6 x 27.5 cm), at Bonhams, Polish and Poise Japanese Art Across the Centuries, 12 May 2022, London, lot 220 (sold for 2,805 GBP). Compare a related square tray with near-identical motif, attributed to Namikawa Sosuke, 19th century, at Christie's, Innovative Japanese Design: Art of the Meiji Period, 18 November 2015, New York, lot 10 (sold for 13,750 USD).

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



113
**A FINE CLOISSONNÉ
 ENAMEL TRAY DEPICTING MOUNT FUJI
 IN THE STYLE OF NAMIKAWA SOSUKE**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of oval form, the shallow rounded sides finely decorated to the interior in musen (wireless) enamels with a view of the snow-capped Mount Fuji in the mist and to the base in copper wire with bamboo leaves, chrysanthemum roundels, stylized flowerheads, and scrolling vines against a turquoise-blue ground.

LENGTH 18.4 cm
 WEIGHT 266.3 g

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear and manufacturing irregularities.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 76.2503 (lacquered to the base). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a tray by Namikawa Sosuke sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 12 May 2011, London, lot 179 (sold for 22,800 GBP).

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





114
**A FINE CLOISSONNÉ FOUR-PANEL TABLE SCREEN
 DEPICTING BIRDS AND FLOWERS**

Japan, early 20th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The hinged gilt-metal panels finely worked in silver wire and bright enamels to depict five birds, three in flight and two perched on branches of blossoming leafy trees growing from a rocky outcrop above crashing waves, all against a black ground, the silver backs engraved in katakiri with flying cranes and Mount Fuji.

SIZE 18.4 x 32.7 cm
 WEIGHT 977 g

Condition: Very good condition with some wear, the backs with light surface scratches.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 76.2396 (lacquered to reverse of one panel). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.



Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969)

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



115
A SUPERB PLIQUE-À-JOUR 'FLOWERS' BOWL

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The deep rounded sides supported on a short, splayed foot, applied with silver rims, delicately worked in silver wire and translucent bright enamels in shades of red, violet, yellow, green, light blue, orange and brown against a bubble suffused ground, with numerous flowers borne on leafy vines, including chrysanthemum, peony, magnolia and plum.

DIAMETER 11.1 cm
 WEIGHT 130 g

Condition: Remarkably good condition, minor typical wear.
 Provenance: Norwegian private collection.

Plique-à-jour, known as shotai-shippo in Japan, came to Japan via France around 1900.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related plique-à-jour bowl with floral design, late 19th century, at Christie's, Masterful Exuberance, Artistic Craftsmanship of Imperial Japan: The Property of a Lady, 18 May 2012, London, lot 241 (**sold for 2,000 GBP**). Compare a closely related plique-à-jour bowl with floral design, late 19th century, at Christie's, The Avo Krikorian Collection: Innovation and Inspiration of Meiji Period Design, Geneva, 19 February 2007, lot 114 (**sold for 2,160 CHF**).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



116
**A HIRADO WHITE-GLAZED
MINIATURE OKIMONO OF A SHISHI**

Japan, 19th century

Finely modeled as a shishi seated on its haunches with one front paw resting on a neatly incised brocade ball, the lion further detailed with curled mane, beard, and tail and floppy ears, covered overall in a soft ivory-white glaze save for the underside.

LENGTH 5.4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Provenance: Ex-collection Conte Don Enrico Lucchesi Palli (1861-1924), Monarch of Campofranco. Purchased in 1889, when he accompanied his cousin Enrico (Henry), Prince of Parma, Earl of Bardi, on a tour of the world from 1887-1891. Thence by descent within the same family.



Conte Don Enrico Lucchesi Palli (1861-1924)

Estimate EUR 800
Starting price EUR 400



117
**A MOLDED AND CARVED HIRADO
BLUE AND WHITE VASE WITH
CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND BUTTERFLIES**

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of square section, the petal-lobed ovoid sides finely applied with leafy chrysanthemum sprays and small butterflies, the leaves and butterflies decorated in cobalt blue and covered in a transparent glaze like the vase itself, the chrysanthemum blossoms in unglazed biscuit.

HEIGHT 16.5 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, the biscuit chrysanthemum blossoms with small losses. Provenance: US private collection.

Hirado ware is a type of Japanese porcelain mostly made at kilns at Mikawachi, Sasebo, Nagasaki, and it is therefore also known as Mikawachi ware. It was made in the former feudal Hirado Domain, which owned the kilns, and was responsible for establishing and directing their production. It is known mainly for its underglaze cobalt blue and white porcelain, with the amount of blue often low, showing off the detailed modeling and the very fine white color of the porcelain. Hirado ware was developed to supply the domestic Japanese market in the 18th century, in the gap between the two main periods of Japanese export porcelain, and produced much of the best Japanese porcelain of the late 18th century and early 19th century. When large-scale exports resumed, it had a good share in the trade.

Estimate EUR 800
Starting price EUR 400



118
**YABU TSUNEO: A FINE AND RARE MINIATURE
SATSUMA VASE DEPICTING HYAKKI YAGYO
(‘NIGHT PARADE OF ONE HUNDRED DEMONS’)**

By Yabu Tsuneco (active after 1926), signed Meizan
Japan, c. 1930

The pear-shaped body supported on a slightly spreading foot and rising to a waisted neck and garlic-head mouth with short lipped rim, the neck flanked by two cloud-form handles, the exterior exquisitely enameled with a procession of oni and yokai, including a three-eyed bakemono with a small pet, an Okame-like demon riding a boar, and a toad holding a tall staff. The base with the finely gilt signature MEIZAN.

HEIGHT 12 cm

Condition: Good condition, little rubbing to gilt. One of the handles restored.

Provenance: British private collection.

Hyakki Yagyo ('Night Parade of One Hundred Demons'), also transliterated Hyakki Yako, is an idiom in Japanese folklore. Sometimes an orderly procession, other times a riot, it refers to a parade of thousands of supernatural creatures known as oni and yōkai that march through the streets of Japan at night. Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889), also known as 'The Demon of Painting' and a contemporary of Yabu Meizan, composed a book of paintings depicting a series of such demonic parades near the end of his life, which was first published after the artist's death in 1889. Meizan was clearly familiar with this work and decided to recreate it for one of his pieces, heightening Kyosai's designs with his painting and gilding techniques.



Hyakki Yagyo by Kawanabe Kyosai

Yabu Tsuneco was the son of Yabu Meizan (1853-1934). He worked in the style of his father after his retirement in 1926. Like his father, his designs were quirky and often inspired by the work of Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889).



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related miniature Satsuma vase by Yabu Meizan, depicting a humorous procession of monkeys, 11.2 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Art, 15 March 2017, New York, lot 6241 (**sold for 12,500 USD**).



Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000





119
KINKOZAN: A RARE SATSUMA CERAMIC HU-FORM VASE WITH MAPLE AND SPARROWS

By the Kinkozan company, signed and sealed Kinkozan zo Japan, Kyoto, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The vase of Chinese Hu-shape rising from a short straight foot to a long neck with straight rim, comprising four sides that are finely painted in polychrome enamels and with gilt depicting an autumnal scene with four sparrows in flight amid branches of maple, all above a cream craquelure glaze. The rim in gilt with a band of key-fret. The recessed base with the gilt signature KINKOZAN zo and with an impressed seal KINKOZAN zo.

HEIGHT 18.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, mostly to the gilt, and manufacturing flaws.

Provenance: British trade.

The design is quite unusual for the Kinkozan company and is much more reminiscent of the work of Yabvu Meizan (1853-1935)

AUCTION COMPARISON:

For a closely related satsuma vase with maple design, by Yabu Meizan, see Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Art, 24 September 2020, New York, lot 896 (sold for 3,187 USD).



Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



120
KINKOZAN: A PAIR OF COBALT-BLUE GROUND SATSUMA CERAMIC DISHES WITH PHEASANTS AND QUAILS

By the Kinkozan company, each signed Kinkozan zo Japan, Kyoto, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Each sturdily potted, the shallow rounded sides rising from a short foot to a petal-lobed rim. The interior finely decorated in colored enamels and gilt, one depicting a spring scene of pheasants below cherry trees in full bloom, the other depicting an autumnal scene of quails amongst dense autumnal grasses above a brown-gray ground. The rim and reverse covered in a rich cobalt blue. The recessed base with the gilt signature KINKOZAN zo.

DIAMETER 18.3 & 19.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, mostly to the gilt, and firing flaws.

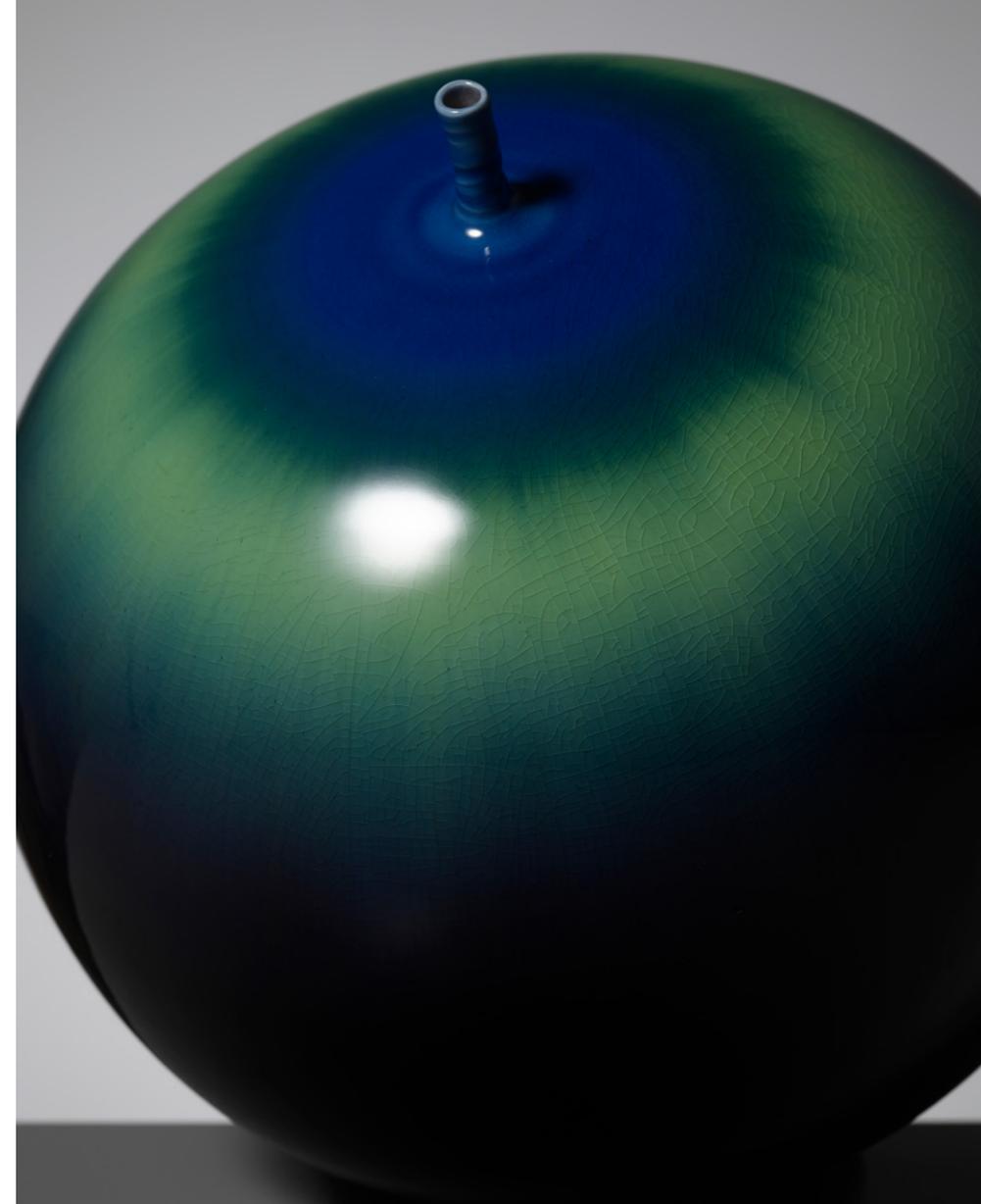
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related cobalt-blue ground satsuma dish, signed Kinkozan, size 31 cm, late 19th century, at Christie's, Japanese Art & Design, 11 May 2011, London, lot 147 (sold for 1,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



121
**TOKUDA YASOKICHI III: A FINE
 KUTANI GLAZED PORCELAIN VASE**

By Tokuda Yasokichi III (1933-2009), signed Kutani Masahiko
 Japan, late 20th century, Showa period (1926-1989)

The globular body supported on a short broad foot and rising
 to a slender cylindrical stem-form neck, covered overall in a rich,
 lustrous, finely crackled, blue-green streaked glaze, save for the
 white foot and base signed KUTANI MASAHIKO below an impressed
 foliate design.

HEIGHT 25.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.
 Provenance: Dutch collection.

Tokuda Yasokichi III was designated a Bearer of Important
 Intangible Cultural Assets (a "Living National Treasure") in 1997
 for his mastery of the innovative *saiyu* glaze technique, based on
 traditional Kutani colored glaze enamels as handed down from his
 grandfather and father, Tokuda Yasokichi I (1873-1956) and Tokuda
 Yasokichi II (1907-1997). Before he succeeded his father in 1988 as
 Tokuda Yasokichi III, the artist was known as Tokuda Masahiko.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related spherical vase by
 the same artist in the collection of the
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession
 number 2001.734. Compare a related
 vase by the same artist in the Minneapolis
 Institute of Art, accession number
 2015.79.372.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related vase by the same artist,
 27.7 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese
 and Korean Art, 12 September 2018,
 New York, lot 1279 (**sold for 4,750 USD**).
 Another closely related vase by the same
 artist was sold at Zucke, Fine Japanese
 Art, 27 May 2022, Vienna, lot 75 (**sold for
 5,688 EUR**).

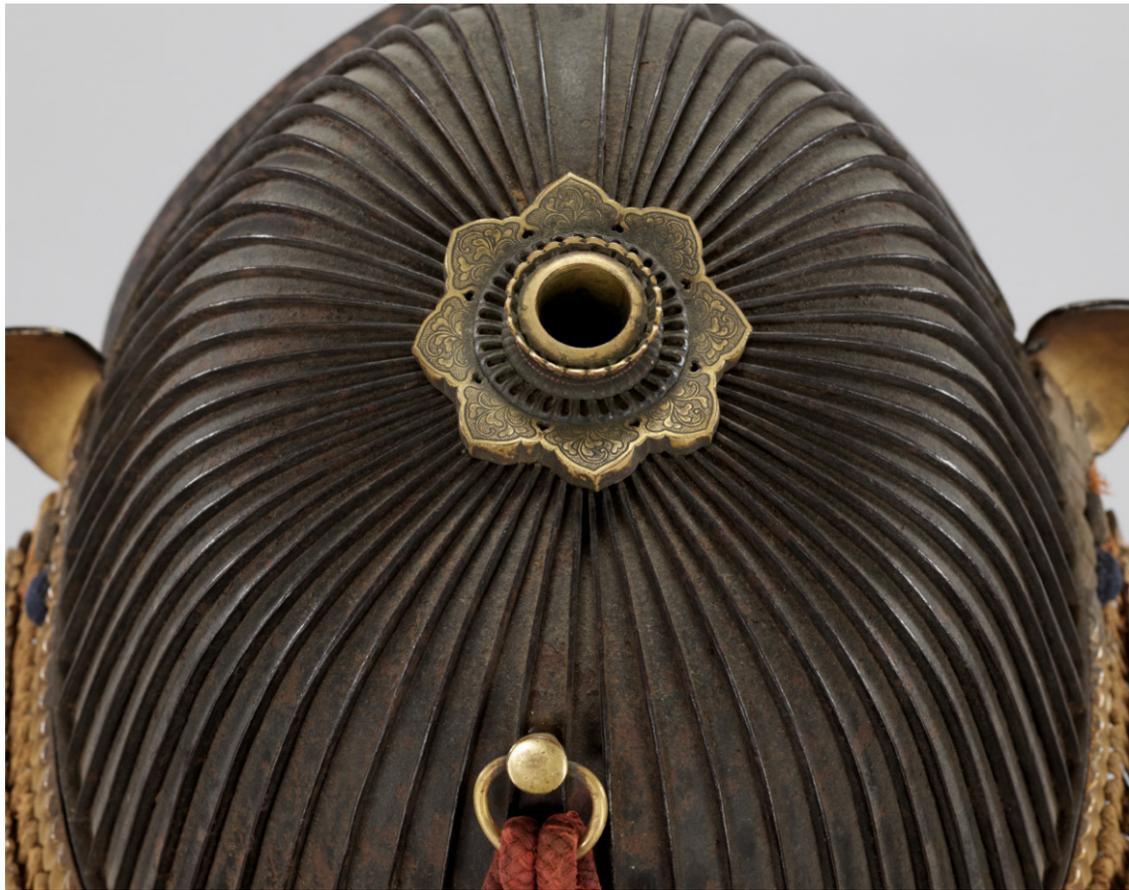


Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500

Armor & Swords

Lots 122 to 140





122
AN O-YOROI ('GREAT HARNESS') SUIT OF ARMOR

Japan, late Edo period (1615-1868)

The components lacquered gold and laced in blue, yellow, and orange, and mounted with gilt chrysanthemum-form kanamono. The armor comprising an iron sujibachi kabuto (helmet) with a 62-plate hachi mounted at the top with a partly gilt tiered chrysanthemum-form tehen kanamono, a loose-ring fitting suspending a red silk cord, with a five-lame shikoro, the lacquered fukigaeshi with lozenge designs, the mabizashi with raised geometric design and mounted with a gilt-metal maedate in the form of a ghost; a roughly textured black-lacquered menpo (mask) with facial hair and a three-lame yodare-kake; a brown-lacquered do (cuirass) with roughly textured black-lacquered sections similar to the menpo; two sode (shoulder guards) divided into a three-lame above a seven-lame section; two kote (sleeves) and tekko (gloves) with kusari and floral iron fittings over black textile decorated with tama pearls; two suneate (shin guards) with dark-brown lacquer and kusari over similar textile; and seven sections of five-lame kusazuri.

Condition: Very good condition with some wear, minor nicks, small losses, age cracks, flaking and small losses to lacquer, light scratches.

Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a wood storage box.

Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000



123

AN IRON SAIGA BACHI KABUTO WITH GILT-WOOD MAEDATE

Japan, 16th century, late Muromachi (1336-1573) to Momoyama period (1573-1615)

Constructed of eight overlapping petal-shaped plates fastened by seated kiku-framed rivets, with four longer rivets, the two-lame shikoro laced with dark blue silk cords, the mabizashi flanked by small plain fukigaeshi, with a green silk chin cord. The gilt wood maedate of classic ken type.

LENGTH 30.5 cm, HEIGHT 21 cm
WEIGHT 1,583 g

Condition: Good condition with some wear and traces of use, few small dents.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a related Saiga bachi kabuto of eccentric shape, also constructed of eight plates and with similar rivets, sold at Christie's, Japanese and Korean Art, 18 April 2018, New York, lot 113 (sold for 18,750 USD).

Estimate EUR 3,000
Starting price EUR 1,500



124

A LACQUER JINGASA (WAR HAT) WITH ASHINA CLAN MON

Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of circular form with a domed top surmounted by an iron four-tiered chrysanthemum-form tehen kanamono from which three gold lacquered arrow-like tatemono elements extend, alternating with three mon composed of three encircled stripes (maru-no-uchi-ni-mitsuhi kiryo), all against a roughly textured cream-colored ground, the rim of gold fundame. The underside is lacquered bright red with gold sprinkles, with linen straps. One of the 'tatemono' with an iron chrysanthemum-form fitting with a loose ring suspending a tasseled cord.

DIAMETER 42 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, few minor age cracks, small losses to lacquer, the underside with few tiny nicks and light surface scratches.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

The mon shown on the present jingasa is known as maru-no-uchi-ni-mitsuhi kiryo and is associated with the Ashina clan.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



125

A LACQUER JINGASA (WAR HAT) WITH HANABISHI MON

Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of circular form with a domed top and slightly flared brim, the black-lacquered top with a slight olive-green tint bearing a fine leathery texture and decorated with three gold-lacquered hanabishi mon (flowery-diamond crests), the rim of gold fundame. The smooth underside is lacquered a vibrant and even red, with cream-colored fabric straps.

DIAMETER 37 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, the underside with minuscule nicks and light surface scratches.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

The hanabishi mon is a crest that represents the head of the Takeda family and the military governor of Kai Province and is used as a family crest in Japan.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related lacquer jingasa, also decorated with three mon, dated late Edo to Meiji period, 42.5 cm diameter, at Christie's, 28 January 2021, New York, lot 73 (sold for 5,625 USD).



Estimate EUR 1,200
Starting price EUR 600





HEIGHT 26.3 cm, WIDTH 41 cm, LENGTH 39 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear and small losses to lacquer. One of the shiode lost.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

Tiger imagery has a long history in East Asia. Tigers were frequently paired with dragons—the tiger representing the ‘male’ principle, the yin to the female ‘yang’ of the dragon, ancient cosmological symbols. Tigers are also commonly paired with bamboo, which is known as take no tora, or ‘tiger in bamboo’, and has many different interpretations; the tiger has a strong nature, is flexible and resilient like the bamboo, but it is also said that the strong tiger is looking for shelter underneath the bamboo, as any earthly power is inferior to the forces of nature. Moreover, the tiger and bamboo represent the power of faith in Buddhism.

126
**A LACQUERED WOOD KURA (SADDLE)
WITH TIGERS IN BAMBOO**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of kurabane type, carved from red oak, the saddle lacquered with nashiji, the pommel (maewa) and cantle (shizuwa) both with a roiro ground finely decorated predominantly gold takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with kirikane to depict a ferocious roaring tiger balancing on a leafy bamboo stalk. The four triangular rings (shiode) for attaching the saddle are decorated with aogai inlay.

LITERATE COMPARISON:

Compare a related saddle, dated ca. 1700, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 32.163.1a.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related saddle, dated to the 18th century, at Christie's, 10 November 2004, London, lot 69 (sold for 4,183 GBP).



Estimate EUR 3,000
Starting price EUR 1,500



127
**YOSHITSUGU: A PAIR OF GILT AND SILVER-INLAID
LACQUERED IRON STIRRUPS (ABUMI)**

By Yoshitsugu, signed Yoshitsugu saku
Japan, 17th to early 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of typical form, the exteriors finely decorated in gilt and silver hirazogan with flowering peony, the undersides each with a daikon radish. The buckles at the top with movable tangs. The interiors of red lacquer. Each stirrup signed on the uprights in silver hirazogan YOSHITSUGU saku.

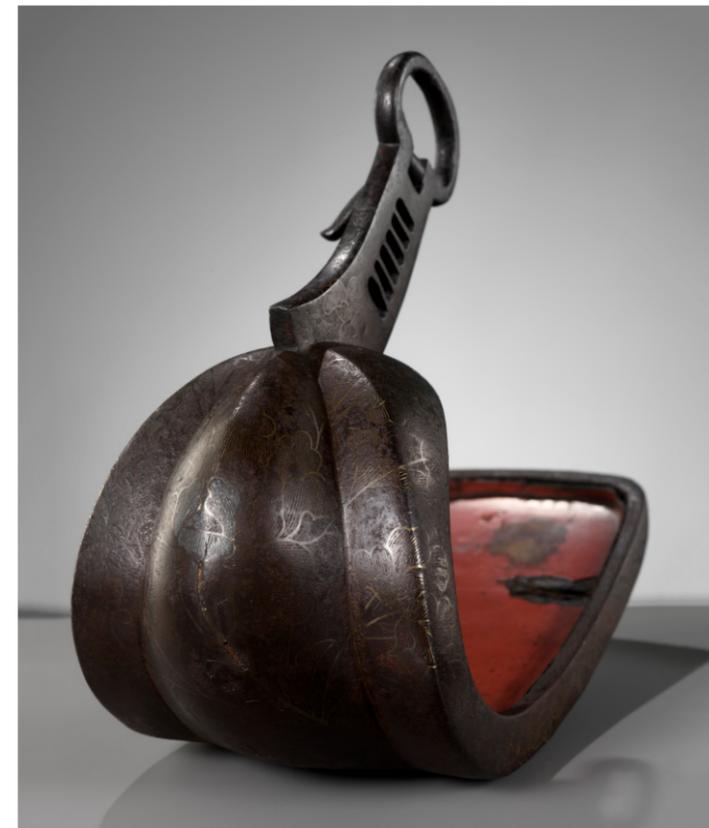
SIZE 24.5 x 28 cm and 25 x 28 cm
WEIGHT 2,284 g and 2,053 g

Condition: Good condition, commensurate with over 300 years of age. The lacquer with expected age cracks and some losses. Wear to inlays and gilt. Minuscule nicks and light scratches. Few minor losses to inlays.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

At least eighteen artists using the name Yoshitsugu are listed in Haynes, Robert E. (2001) *The Index of Japanese Sword Fittings and Associated Artists*, two of which worked in Kaga Province, where the present stirrups were likely made; Yoshitsugu H 12230.0 (Kanazawa in Kaga Province, ca. 1600) and Yoshitsugu H 12234.0.

Abumi, Japanese stirrups, were used in Japan as early as the 5th century, and were a necessary component along with the Japanese saddle (kura) for the use of horses in warfare. Abumi became the type of stirrup used by the samurai class of feudal Japan.

The military version of this open-sided stirrup, called the shitanaga abumi, was in use by the middle Heian period. It was thinner, had a deeper toe pocket and an even longer and flatter foot shelf. It is not known why the Japanese developed this unique style of stirrup, but this stirrup stayed in use until European style-stirrups were introduced in the late 19th century. The abumi had a distinctive swan-like shape, curved up and backward at the front so as to bring the loop for the leather strap over the instep and achieve a correct balance. Most of the surviving specimens from this period are made entirely of iron, inlaid with designs of silver or other materials, and covered with lacquer.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related pair of abumi, sold at Christie's, Japanese Art and Design, 12 May 2010, London, lot 459 (sold for 4,000 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



128
**A RARE 'DRAGON' YAMATO UTSUBO (QUIVER)
 WITH YA (ARROWS)**

Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The utsubo (quiver) of wood, lacquered in black, red, gold, and silver hiramaki-e with a three clawed dragon amid swirling clouds, the central waist portion with a band of red lacquered leather, and the removable cover at the bottom held in place by a red lacquered leather band. The quiver contains twelve bamboo ya (arrows) fletched with feathers and painted in gold lacquer.

LENGTH 98.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition commensurate with age, few small nicks, minor losses to the lacquer, minuscule cracks, and small repairs.

Provenance: French private collection.

The traditional open ebira type quiver was carried on the back with the arrowheads downwards and the arrows and flights clearly visible. The utsubo type is said to have been developed in order to conceal the number of arrows held from an enemy. They were carried on the back with the arrow flights resting on an internal bamboo raft. Lacquered examples, as opposed to leather-clad and woven rattan examples, were quite luxurious and are known as Yamato utsubo.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a related utsubo with arrows, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, accession number CIRC.87-1950.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related utsubo with dragons, 18th century, at Christie's, Samurai Swords and Armour: A Refined Art, 4 December 2014, lot 56 (sold for 8,750 USD).

Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000





129
**A TANTO IN A SUPERBLY CARVED
 WOOD SAYA DEPICTING FROGS
 AND LOTUS**

Japan, likely Hida province, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The saya and tsuka finely and naturalistically carved with two small frogs, the eyes inlaid with dark horn and the webbed feet superbly detailed, as well as furled lotus leaves and twisting vines. The end of the hilt formed as a lotus pod.

LENGTH 43.7 cm (total) and 23.6 cm (the blade)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, traces of use, few small losses to tsuka and saya.
 Provenance: Austrian private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare the manner of the frogs to a wood inro sold at Bonhams, Japanese and Korean Art, 21 September 2022, New York, lot 538 (sold for 7,650 USD).

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



130
**A FINE LACQUERED 'MARINE-LIFE'
 AIKUCHI TANTO**

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The tanto mounted in a fine lacquer scabbard decorated in gold, silver and lacquer takamaki-e with fish, lobster, octopus, crab, and a hamaguri clam amid water grass, above a mother of pearl sprinkled ground. The fittings of silver.

LENGTH 28.6 cm (total) and 23.2 cm (the blade)
 WEIGHT 130 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few minuscule losses.
 Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related aikuchi tanto in lacquer scabbard, length 35.9 cm, 19th century, at Christie's, Edo to Post-War: 500 Years of Japanese Art and Design, 17 November 2016, New York, lot 50 (sold for 4,000 USD).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



131
**A SUPERB INLAID LACQUER WAKIZASHI KOSHIRAE
 WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS**

Japan, 19th century

The black-lacquered saya with alternating textured and polished stripes and decorated in gold and colored takamaki-e with inlays of mother-of-pearl and coral leafy blossoming cherry sprays with falling leaves and fruit. The shakudo nanako tsuba of mokkogata form with two hitsu and gold rims, decorated in gold, silver, and shakudo takazogan with numerous lively horses striking different poses. The gold menuki crafted in the form of spiny lobsters, the shakudo nanako fuchi-kashira decorated in gold takazogan with spiny lobsters as well. The rayskin tsuka with green silk tsukamaki in lozenge pattern. With a wood blade and silk bag.

LENGTH 75 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, one tiny loss to one inlay.

Provenance: British private collection

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000





132
SUKEMUNE: A TANTO IN SUPERB KOSHIRAE

By Shimada Sukemune, signed Sukemune saku
 Japan, the blade mid-16th century, late Muromachi period (1336-1573), the mounting 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The blade:
 The blade with a wide hira-zukuri, muzori, and iori mune. The hamon is notare-ba in nie-deki, with profuse ko-ashi, the hada is ko-itame with pronounced grain and jinie. The blade carved with horimono to either side, the omote with ken and tsume, the ura with bonji and futasuji-hi. The silver habaki with incised diagonal lines. The nakago with two mekugi-ana and kuri jiri, the mei reads SUKEMUNE saku.

The mounting:
 The shibuichi tsuba of irregular form with two hitsu, decorated in gold takazogan with plum blossoms. The shakudo fuchi and kashira decorated in gold and silver takazogan with birds and plum blossoms and buds. The shibuichi menuki in the form of snails. The kojiri inlaid with stylized plum blossoms and leaves. The shakudo kurikata finely cast in the form of an elephant head with gold takazogan details. The rayskin tsuka wrapped in black leather. The black-lacquered saya in tataki-nuri.

With an NBTHK Hozon Token (Sword Worthy of Presentation) paper dated Heisei 26 (2014), no. 3005213.

NAGASA 29.7 cm, LENGTH 55.7 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.
 Provenance: From an important British private collection.

Estimate EUR 10,000
 Starting price EUR 5,000





133
SUKEHIRO: A KATANA IN SHIRASAYA

By Sukehiro, signed Echizen no kami Sukehiro
 Japan, Edo period (1615-1868)

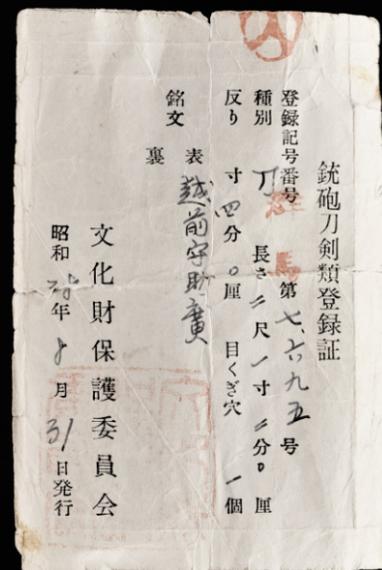
The slender, gently curved blade with shinogi-zukuri and iori mune. The hamon is choji midare in nioi-deki with ashi, ending in an omaru boshi. The copper double habaki is partly gilt and decorated with diagonal file marks. The nakago with one mekugi-ana and kuri jiri, the mei reads Echizen no kami SUKEHIRO.

With a registration certificate issued on firearms and swords (Juho token rui torokusho) by the Committee of the Protection of Cultural Properties (Bunkazai hogo jin kai), no. 7695 in Gunma Prefecture, on 31 August 1963 (Showa 38), noting a nagasa of 2-shaku 1-sun 2-bu, a sori of 4-bu (ca. 1.21 cm), confirming the reading of the signature above, with seal Bunkazai Hozon jin Kai.

NAGASA 64.2 cm, LENGTH 87 cm

Condition: Good condition with wear, fukure, blisters, light scratches.
 Provenance: Hungarian private collection.

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



134
SUKEHIRO: A WAKIZASHI IN SHIRASAYA, DATED 1687 BY INSCRIPTION

By Sukehiro, signed Tsuda Echizen no kami Sukehiro
 Japan, dated 1687

The slightly curved blade with shinogi-zukuri and iori mune. The hamon is midare with some notare, ending in a midare-komi boshi, the hada is itame. The copper habaki is partly gilt. The nakago with one mekugi-ana and kengyo jiri, the back inscribed Enpo rokunen nigatsu hi (A day in the second month in Enpo 6th year [corresponding to 1678]), the mei on the front reads Tsuda Echizen no kami SUKEHIRO.

NAGASA 54.6 cm, LENGTH 87.2 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear and traces of use, the mune with small nicks and some ware, minor fukure.
 Provenance: Hungarian private collection.

This wakizashi was likely made by Sukehiro II in Settsu Province, see Sesko, Markus (2012) Index of Japanese Swordsmiths, p. 172-173. Around 1674, the swordsmith changed the style of his signature from kaku (square) to rounded (maru), as seen on the present lot.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related wakizashi, also with a very shallow sori and signed Tsuda Echizen no kami Sukehiro, dated to the 17th century, at Sotheby's, 11 May 2021, London, lot 37 (sold for 8,190 GBP).



Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000





135
**TADAYOSHI: A HIZEN KATANA IN SHIRASAYA,
 DATED 1660, WITH GILT INSCRIPTION**

Signed Hizen no Kuni Tadayoshi
 Japan, dated 1660

The slender, gently curved blade with shinogi-zukuri and iori mune. The hamon is sugu in nie-deki ending in an omaru boshi, the hada is itame with some mokume. The silver habaki with diagonal file marks and dew drops. The nakago with one mekugi-ana and kuri jiri, with a gilt-inlaid tameshigiri (test-cutting) mei reading Manji sannen nigatsu hi, futatsu do setsudan, Yamano Kaemon (A day in the second month, Manji 3rd year [corresponding to 1660], a test cutting of Futatsu do [has cut two torsos] by Yamano Kaemon, the mei reads Hizen no Kuni TADAYOSHI.

NAGASA 69.5 cm, LENGTH 94.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and little fukure and ware.
 Provenance: Hungarian collection.

The present sword was tested by Yamano Kaemon, who was the leader of the Yamano school – a school that was responsible for testing swords for sharpness and smooth cutting ability. To test this sword, he cleanly cut through two deceased human torsos. Gold letters on the tang of this sword acknowledge that a highly respected person inspected and certified this sword.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related katana in shirasaya by Tadayoshi, dated 17th century, at Christie's, 10 November 2004, London, lot 20 (sold for **26,290 GBP**). Compare a related katana in a 19th-century koshirae by Tadayoshi (3rd generation), dated 17th century, at Christie's, 18 September 2008, New York, lot 331 (sold for **25,000 USD**).



Estimate EUR 15,000
 Starting price EUR 8,000



136

**AN UDA SCHOOL WAKIZASHI
IN SHIRASAYA WITH NBTHK KICHO
TOKEN CERTIFICATE**

Japan, 16th-17th century, late Muromachi period
(1336-1573) to early Edo period (1615-1868)

The slender curved blade with shinogi-zukuri and
iori mune. The hamon is sugu with slight notare,
the hada is mokume. The copper habaki with
diagonal file marks and dew drops. The nakago
with two mekugi-ana, mumei, and kiri jiri.

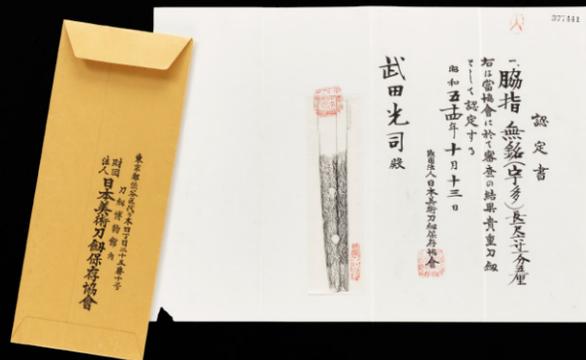
With an NBTHK Kicho Token ('Precious Token')
certificate, issued to a Mr. Takeda on 13 October
1979 (Showa 54), no. 377441, attributing the
blade to the Uda school, noting a nagasa of 6-sun
1-bu 5-ri, in the original envelope.

NAGASA 48.8 cm, LENGTH 70.7 cm (total)

Condition: Good condition with some wear, minor
fukure and ware, the mune with a small nick.
Provenance: Hungarian collection.

The founder of the Uda school is considered
to have been Kunimitsu. He was originally from
the Uda district of Yamato Province. He worked
around the Bunpo era (1317-1319) at the end
of the Kamakura period. All of the succeeding
smiths of this school used the kanji character
Kuni in their signatures. Since remaining works by
Kunimitsu are non-existent, his students Kunifusa
and Kunimune are generally thought to be the
true founders of this school. Both of these smiths
studied under Norishige of the Etchu Province
and they were active around the Koan era
(1361-1362).

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



137

**TADASHIGE: A TAKADA SCHOOL
WAKIZASHI IN SHIRASAYA WITH
NBTHK KICHO TOKEN CERTIFICATE**

By Tadashige, signed Tadashige
Japan, 17th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

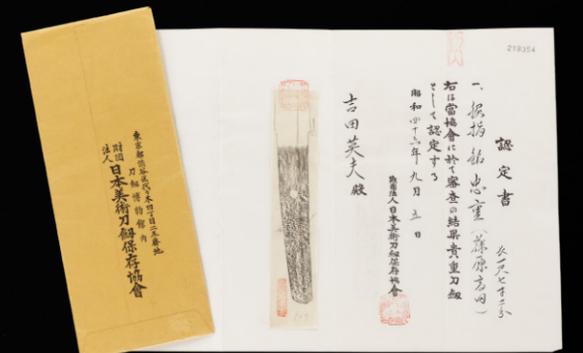
The slender curved blade with shinogi-zukuri
and iori mune. The hamon is notare with some
midare in nie-deki, ending in a komaru boshi,
the hada is itame. The gilt copper habaki with
diagonal file marks and dew drops. The nakago
with one mekugi-ana and kuri jiri. The mei reads
TADASHIGE.

With an NBTHK Kicho Token ('Precious Token')
certificate, issued to a Mr. Yoshida on 5
September 1971 (Showa 46), no. 218354, noting
a nagasa of 1-shaku 7-sun 2-bu, confirming the
reading of the signature above and attributing
the blade to the school of Fujiwara Takada, in the
original envelope.

NAGASA 52 cm, LENGTH 75.2 cm (total)

Condition: Good condition with some wear, light
scratches, and minor fukure and ware.
Provenance: Hungarian private collection.

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200





138
**A RARE KATANA IN KOSHIRAE,
 THE BLADE ATTRIBUTED TO JUMYO,
 WITH NBTHK KICHO TOKEN CERTIFICATE**

Japan, the blade 15th-16th century, Muromachi (1336-1573) to Momoyama period (1573-1615), the mounting 17th-18th century, early Edo period (1615-1868)

The blade:
 The slender, gently curved blade with shinogi-zukuri and iori mune. The hamon is gunome-midare in nie-deki with many hataraki including kinsuji and chikei, ending in a komaru boshi. The hada is itame. Both sides of the blade with a full-length bohi. The nakago is suriage with kiri jiri, mumei, one of the three mekugi-ana is filled with lead, part of an early mekugi-ana is visible at the bottom of the nakago.

The mounting:
 The shakudo tsuba of maru-gata form with two hitsu, decorated in gold, silver, and copper takazogan with a boar and autumn grasses under a flat-inlaid moon to one side and flowers above a stream to the other. The iron fuchi and kashira are inlaid with gilt-copper to depict rain dragons and a reishi cloud. The figural menuki with details in copper and gold. The rayskin tsuka with green silk tsuka-ito. The saya is lacquered in roiro.

With an NBTHK Kicho Token ('Precious Token') white paper, dated 12 March 1967 (Showa 42), no. 122478, attributing the blade to Jumyo, noting a nagasa of 2-shaku, 3-sun 5-bu, in the original envelope.

NAGASA 71.1 cm, LENGTH 101.5 (total)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and traces of use, the blade with a tiny nick to the kissaki and scattered small fukure, the mounts with few minuscule nicks.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a fine silk brocade cover decorated in gold and colored thread with fans and swirling clouds.

The Jumyo (lit. 'longevity') school has its origins from Yamato Province (Nara Prefecture) and moved to Mino Province (Gifu Prefecture) in the Kamakura period (1185-1333). The tradition continued for centuries, right up until the end of the Edo period in 1868.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related katana, signed Noshu Ju Jumyo, also with bohi on both sides but dated 18th century, at Christie's, 13 December 2017, London, lot 17 (**sold for 4,750 GBP**). Compare a related katana, signed Jumyo, dated late 16th century, Momoyama period, at Christie's, 21 June 2001, London, lot 9 (**sold for 4,230 GBP**).



Estimate EUR 6,000
 Starting price EUR 3,000





139
**KANEHISA: A TANTO
IN SHIRASAYA WITH
INSCRIBED BLADE**

By Kanehisa, signed Kanehisa
Japan, Edo period (1615-1868)

The blade with hira-zukuri and maru mune, the hamon is sugu with nie and nioi, the hada is masame. One side of the blade with a half-length bohi and a narrower ridge (soehi) below a horimono in bon script representing Fudo Myo-o. The habaki is gilt. The nakago with one mekugi-ana and kuri jiri. The wood saya of an attractive grain and color with bone fittings. The mei reads KANEHISA.

NAGASA 16 cm, LENGTH 27.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and traces of use.
Provenance: Hungarian collection.

Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000

140
**A RARE MINO YOROI-DOSHI
(‘ARMOR PIERCER’) IN
SHIRASAYA**

Japan, 14th-15th century, Muromachi
period (1336-1573)

The blade with hira-zukuri and a broad iori mune tapering toward the kissaki. The hamon is sanbonsugi in nioi-deki, the hada is masame with little itame, the boshi is omaru. The nakago with one mekugi-ana, mumei, and haagari jiri.

NAGASA 22.7 cm, LENGTH 38.8 cm
(total)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, traces of use, the blade with minor ware.
Provenance: Hungarian collection.

The yoroi-doshi (‘armor piercer’ or ‘mail piercer’) is one of the traditionally made Japanese swords that appeared in the Sengoku period (late Muromachi) and were worn by the samurai class as a weapon in feudal Japan. It is an extra thick tanto and was made for piercing armor and for stabbing while grappling in close quarters. Yoroi-doshi were worn inside the belt on the back or on the right side with the hilt toward the front and the edge upward. Due to being worn on the right, the blade would have been drawn using the left hand, giving rise to the alternate name of metezashi or ‘horse-hand’ (i.e. rein-hand, left-hand) blade’.

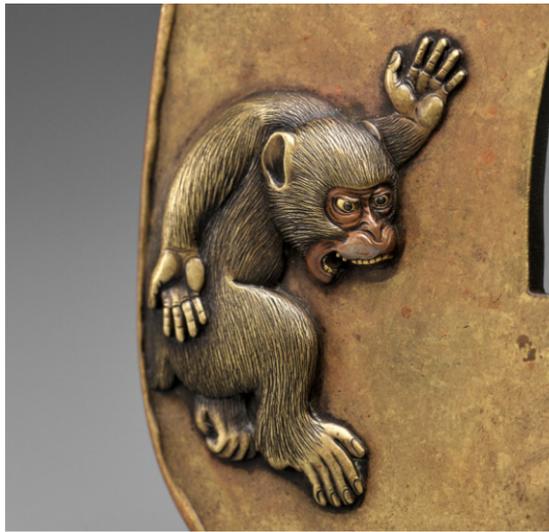
Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000



Sword Fittings

Lots 141 to 163





141
**ICHIRYU TOSHIMITSU:
A SUPERB SENTOKU BAKUMATSU
TSUBA WITH MONKEYS AND CRABS**

By Ichiryu Toshimitsu, signed Ichiryu Toshimitsu 一柳壽光
with kakihan
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of aorigata shape, decorated in masterful takazogan with highlights of gold, copper and shakudo depicting a family of three monkeys, the father getting his hand nipped by a crab, while one of his young tries to pull him free, pulling on the collar of his father's jacket, another monkey to the side screaming with his arms flailing. The reverse with another crab and an inlaid silver river stream, signed ICHIRYU TOSHIMITSU and kakihan.

SIZE 8.2 x 8 cm
WEIGHT 226.0 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor surface wear.
Provenance: British collection.

Ichiryu Toshimitsu is listed on page 2054, H 10450.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. He lived in Mito, Hitachi province, and was the first son and student of Hirano Toshiharu.

The present tsuba is a reference to the story of 'The Crab and the Monkey', in which a sly monkey kills a crab, and is later killed in revenge by the crab's offspring.

Estimate EUR 4,000
Starting price EUR 2,000





142
**TACHIBANA TAKAIE: A SUPERB
 GOLD AND SILVER INLAID IRON TSUBA
 WITH SARUMAWASHI AND MONKEY**

By Tachibana Takaie (1850-1900), signed Morioka no Ju Tachibana Takaie Tsukuru, Tetsugendo horu 盛岡住 橋孝家造 鉄元堂鑄 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of kaku-marugata (rounded square) form with three hitsu, worked in masterful takazogan with gold, silver, copper, and shibuichi details depicting a sarumawashi (monkey trainer) carrying his monkey on his back, below the silver-inlaid moon partly covered in misty clouds. Inscribed and signed Morioka no Ju TACHIBANA TAKAIE tsukuru [made by Tachibana Takaie from Morioka]. The reverse with two haystacks in gold takazogan and with inscription Tetsugendo horu.

SIZE 8.4 x 7.2
 WEIGHT 237.3 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor surface wear.
Provenance: British private collection, purchased at Christie's, Japanese Art and Design, 9 November 2005, London, lot 70 (sold for 3,360 GBP).

Tachibana Takaie is listed on page 1849, H 09273.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. The artist lived in Morioka in Rikuoka province and worked with Hidemune.

Estimate EUR 5,000
 Starting price EUR 2,400





143
A FINE BAKUMATSU SENTOKU
TSUBA WITH NOH MASKS

After Iwamoto Konkan (1744-1801), signed Iwamoto Konkan
岩本昆寛
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of kakugata shape, the front finely worked in copper, shibuichi and gold takazogan, depicting two noh masks of Okame and oni, their tassels neatly incised and worked in shishiaibori (sunken relief), the reverse with a Konoha-tengu mask worked also worked in shishiaibori. Signed IWAMOTO KONKAN – likely as a tribute to this legendary artist.

SIZE 9.7 x 8.3 cm
WEIGHT 261.6 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor associated surface wear.
Provenance: British collection.

Iwamoto Konkan is listed on pages 716-717, H 03464.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Also known as Asai Konkan. He was the student and adopted son of Ryokan I, fifth master of the Iwamoto family, and founder of the Iwamoto school. He originally worked in the style of the Yokoya school and Nara school, but later developed the Konkan style. His work style and subject were so popular that the majority of signed examples are reproductions made in homage to this artist.

Auction comparison: For a related tsuba after Iwamoto Konkan, Meiji era (1868-1912), see Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 12 May 2016, London, lot 329 (sold for 6,875 GBP).

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



144
TORYO: A SUPERB
BAKUMATSU COPPER TSUBA
OF THE BUNBUKU CHAGAMA

By Toryo, signed Toryo 東凌
Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period
(1868-1912)

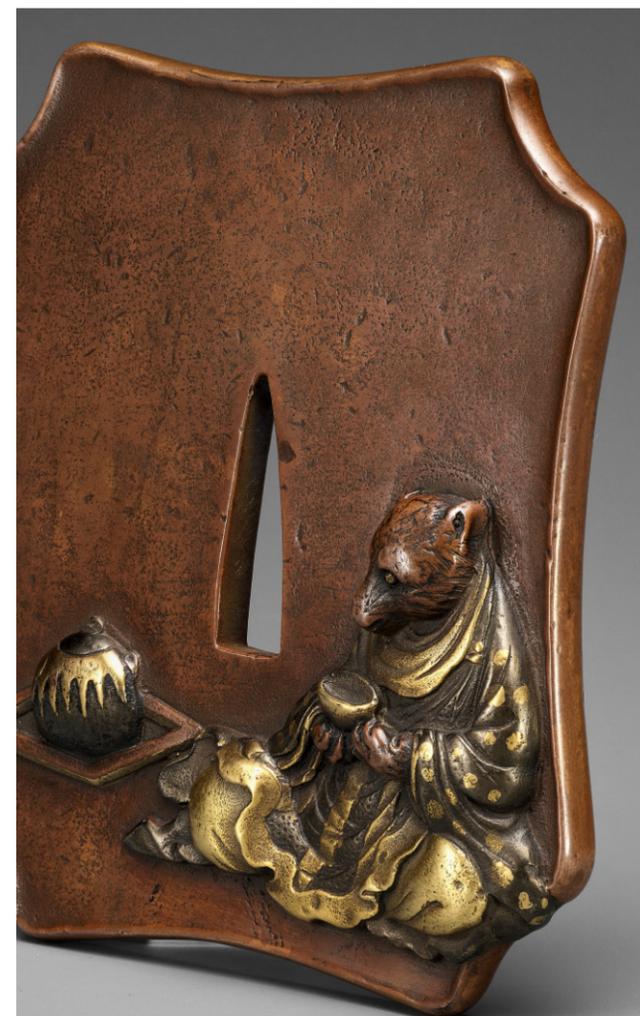
Of tate-itomaki-gata with sumikiri corners, finely decorated in shibuichi, gold and copper takazogan depicting a tanuki seated by a tea kettle holding a teacup, the reverse with an idyllic scene of a straw hut below the moon in shibuichi, silver, and gold takazogan, inscribed Higashidaishita Shinobigaoka no hotori ni oite kore o saku, signed TORYO and with a seal.

SIZE 8.2 x 8.1 cm
WEIGHT 246.3 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few minuscule nicks here and there.
Provenance: British collection.

The popular folktale Bunbuku-Chagama tells of a tanuki being mistreated as a tea kettle at a temple, before being sold off and bringing great wealth to its new owner using its shapeshifting powers.

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



The lucky tea kettle of Morin Temple (Morinji no bunbuku chagama), from the series New Forms of Thirty-six ghosts, by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, 1892, in the collection of the Art Gallery NSW, accession number 582.2018.2





145
**KATSUYASU: A FINE INLAID SENTOKU
 TSUBA WITH YORITOMO HIDING IN A TREE**

By Katsuyasu (1832-1880), signed Katsuyasu horu 勝保鋳
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of kakugata shape with sumikiri corners, decorated in superb gold, silver, shakudo, and copper takazogan, depicting Yoritomo and his comrades hidden in a tree trunk and two doves in flight, the reverse finely engraved with pines, military banners, and mountains, signed KATSUYASU horu.

SIZE 9.3 x 8.5 cm
 WEIGHT 194.9 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.



Katsuyasu is listed on page 608, H 02931.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. The artist was born in Mito, Hitachi province, as the second son of Hagiya Katsuhira. He carried on the family business in Mito and Edo.

This tsuba shows Minamoto Yoritomo hiding from his enemies in a tree during the Genpei War (1180-1185). Yoritomo was being followed through the Hakone Mountains by warriors from the Taira clan. One of these warriors, Kajiwara Kagetoki, was secretly a supporter of Yoritomo. When the Taira soldiers came upon the tree where Yoritomo was hiding, Kagetoki stuck his bow into the tree. This startled two doves that flew away. Kagetoki convinced the other Taira soldiers that no one could be in the tree with the doves, thus allowing Yoritomo to escape.

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1.200



Woodblock print of Minamoto no Yoritomo Hiding in a Tree by Torii Kiyoshige, circa 1758, in the Art Institute Chicago, reference number 1942.68

146
**TOSHIMASA: A SUPERB SENTOKU TSUBA
 DEPICTING SHOKI WITH 'BAT ONI'**

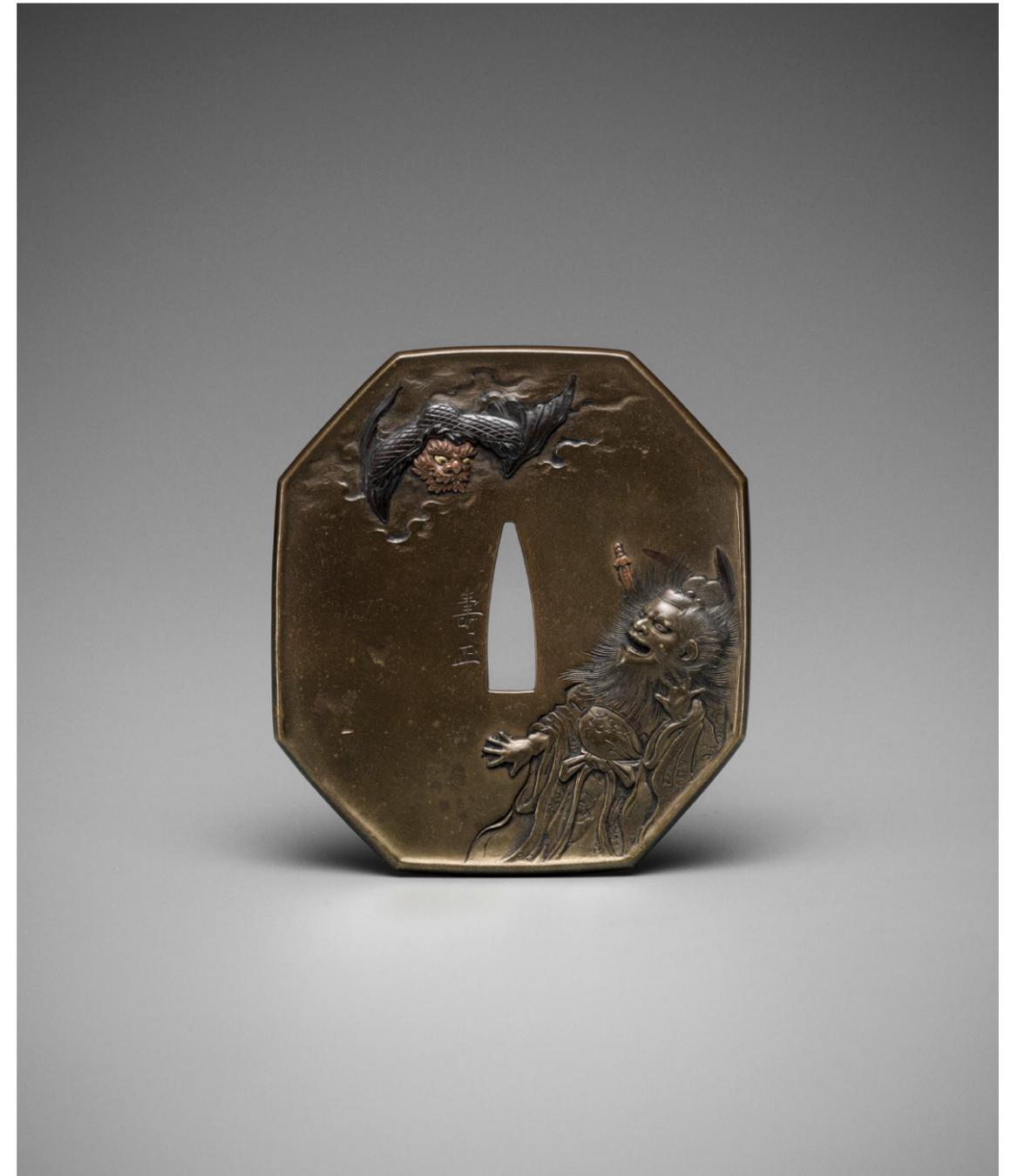
By Toshimasa, signed Toshimasa 壽正
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period
 (1868-1912)

SIZE 8.2 x 7.5 cm
 WEIGHT 178.8 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor surface wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Of octagonal form and finely worked in shishiaibori (sunken relief) and with gold, copper, and shibuichi takazogan with Shoki confronted by a flying oni in the form of a bat, the reverse with a silver inlaid moon behind clouds. Signed TOSHIMASA.

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000





147
HAMANO NORIYUKI: A SENTOKU TSUBA OF RIHAKU GAZING AT THE MOON

By Hamano Noriyuki, signed Hamano Noriyuki saku 濱基矩隨 Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of tate-marugata shape, with one hitsu, finely worked in sukashibori (openwork) with gold, silver and shibuichi takazogan to depict Rihaku (Li Bai) leaning out a window with a book in his left hand and gazing towards the hidden full moon, signed HAMANO NORIYUKI. The reverse depicting the backside of the hut with a bamboo fenced window.

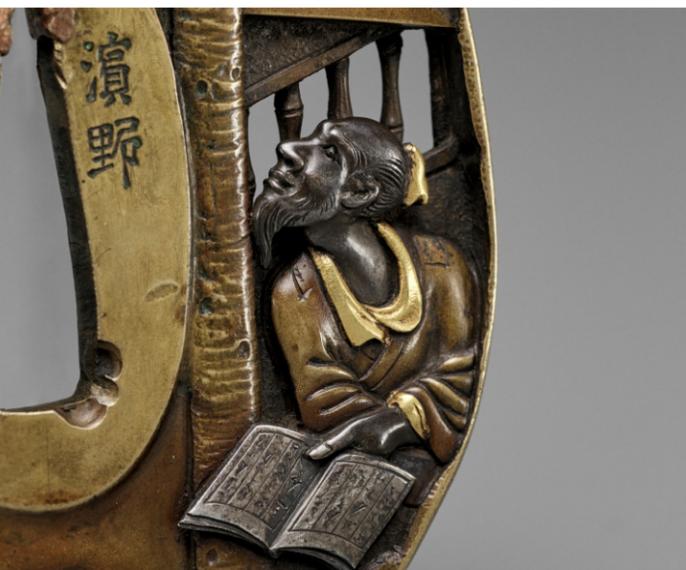
SIZE 6.3 x 7 cm
 WEIGHT 105.7 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor associated surface wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Hamano Noriyuki is listed on pages 1446-1447, H 07454.0 and H 07455.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Hamano Noriyuki I (1736-1787) lived in Edo. Hamano Noriyuki II (1771-1852), born in Edo, was the adopted son and student of Noriyuki I.

The present tsuba depicts a scene from one of the most recited poems in Chinese literature, Li Bai's 'Quiet Night Thoughts' in which moonlight near his bed invokes thoughts of home.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



148
HAMANO NORIYUKI: A FINE HAMANO SCHOOL SHIBUICHI, SILVER AND ENAMELED KOZUKA

By Hamano Noriyuki, signed Hamano Noriyuki saku 濱基矩隨作 Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of shibuichi, decorated with subtle silver and shippo enamels, depicting cherry blossoms floating on water under the reflection of the moon, the reverse continuing the imagery and inscribed on a silver section Shokado no zu o motte HAMANO NORIYUKI kore o saku [made by Hamano Noriyuki, after a design by Shokado].

LENGTH 9.6 cm
 WEIGHT 35.1 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Hamano Noriyuki is listed on pages 1446-1447, H 07454.0 and H 07455.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Hamano Noriyuki I (1736-1787) lived in Edo. Hamano Noriyuki II (1771-1852), born in Edo, was the adopted son and student of Noriyuki I.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

149
A GOLD AND SILVER-INLAID SHAKUDO KOZUKA WITH SIGNED BLADE

The blade with inscription and signed Kunimitsu Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The shakudo nanako ground finely decorated with gold and silver takazogan with nogiku (daisies) and long leaves with serrated edges tied together with a string, the reverse left plain, with a steel blade bearing an inscription and signed Kunimitsu. With a wood storage box.

LENGTH 9.7 cm (the handle), 16.9 cm (the blade incl. tang), and 20.7 cm (total)
 WEIGHT 26.6 g (the handle) and 12.1 g (the blade)

Condition: The handle in excellent condition with minor wear. The blade in good condition with some wear and minor blisters.
 Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800





150
**A FINE SHIBUICHI
 KOZUKA WITH
 DRYING FUGU**

Unsigned
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period
 (1615-1868)

One side decorated in superb shibuichi, copper, and gold takazogan depicting a fugu (puffer fish) hung to a bamboo stick to dry, the reverse in densely engraved katakiri and ke-bori with a bustling scene of the Nihonbashi bridge, Mount Fuji visible to the side in the background.

LENGTH 9.7 cm
 WEIGHT 35.3 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor expected surface wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



151
**YURAKUSAI SEKIBUN: A SUPERB
 SHAKUDO AND GOLD KOZUKA
 WITH CARP IN WATER WEEDS**

By Yurakusai Sekibun, signed Yurakusai Sekibun
 遊洛齋 赤文
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of shakudo-nanako ground, finely decorated in gold takazogan with a carp swimming amid water weeds, signed YURAKUSAI SEKIBUN to the reverse.

LENGTH 9.9 cm
 WEIGHT 37.3 g

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

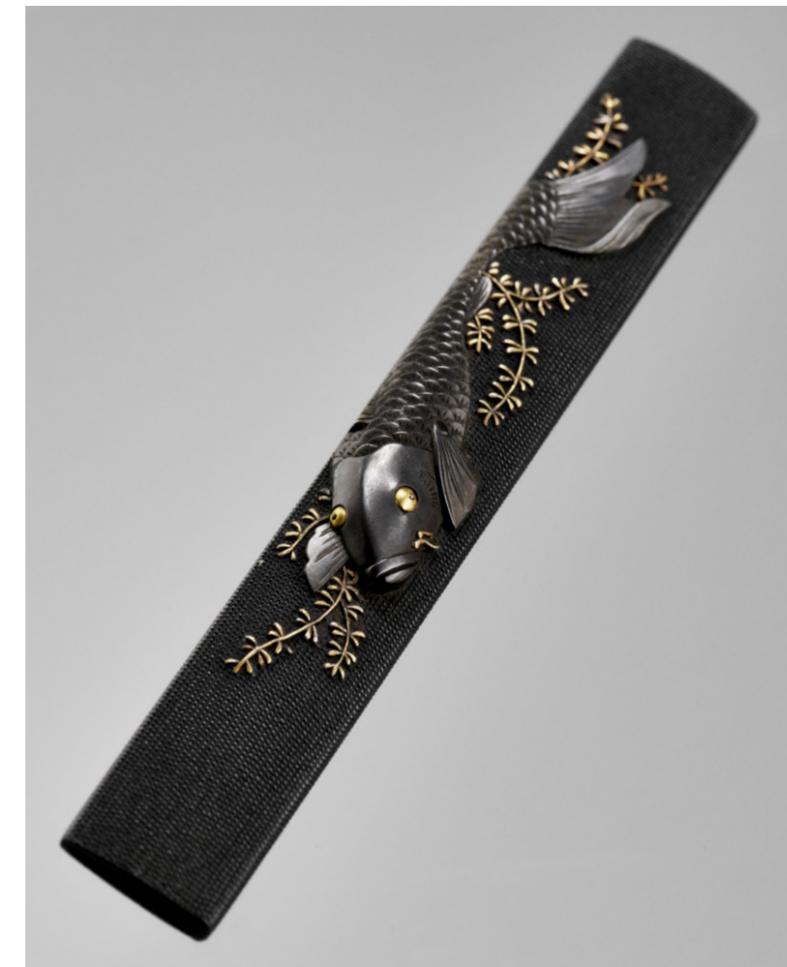
Yurakusai Sekibun is listed on page 1624-1625, H 08118.0 and H 08119.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Yurakusai Sekibun I (1790-1872) was born in Murakami, Echigo province, and studied the Hamano school style. He learned both iron and soft metal plate techniques. His son Yurakusai Sekibun II (1838-1912) was born in Edo and took on his father's name and titles after his death.

**AUCTION
 COMPARISON:**

Compare a related kashira and fuchi of a carp and water weeds by Yurakusai Sekibun, 19th century, at Bonhams, Arts of the Samurai, 27 October 2014, New York, lot 1175 (sold for 2,500 USD).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





152
A SENTOKU KOZUKA WITH CRAB

Unsigned
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The kozuka of rectangular shape, rounded to one side, created from sentoku and worked in copper takazogan with a crab, the details embellished with gold and shakudo.

LENGTH 9.8 cm
 WEIGHT 26.5 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



153
RYUCHIKEN TERUYUKI: A SENTOKU AND GOLD KOZUKA WITH A CICADA ON A TREE

By Ryuchiken Teruyuki (circa 1825-1875), signed Ryuchiken Teruyuki 龍池軒英随
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The sentoku kozuka with masterful gold takazogan depicting a cicada perched on a tree trunk, the bark elaborately engraved with wood grain incisions, the reverse with an archaic Chinese poem written in gold nonume-zogan and signed RYUCHIKEN TERUYUKI. With a fitted wood storage box.

LENGTH 9.6 cm
 WEIGHT 30.7 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Ryuchiken Teruyuki, also known as Arai Teruyuki, is listed on page 1922, H 09665.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related kozuka with a cicada on a tree by Ryuchiken Teruyuki, 19th century, at Bonhams, The Paul Goodman collection of Japanese arrowheads, swords, and fittings Part I, 20 October 2015, New York, lot 146 (part lot, **sold for 3,125 EUR**).

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



155
JOKA: A RARE LACQUERED METAL KOZUKA WITH ANTS

By the Joka family, signed Joshin zu 乘真園 Joka 常嘉 with kakihan
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Lacquered in kinji (gold) and in imitation of shibuichi, with five ants carrying dew drops, the reverse with inscription in gold lacquer Joshin zu (the design after Kano Joshin, active c. 1660) and signature JOKA with kakihan.

LENGTH 9.6 cm
 WEIGHT 22.4 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear to lacquer, particularly to the gold-lacquered inscription.
 Provenance: British collection.

Joka is listed on page 451, H 02141.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. The signature Joka indicated a group of artists who were active during the last two hundred years of the Edo period and into the Meiji period. There are various signatures and most artists are known for their lacquered metalwork.



Museum comparison:

Compare a related iron tsuba by Joka, after Yasuchika, early 19th century, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 1999.270.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



154
HARUCHIKA: A RARE SHIBUICHI AND SHAKUDO KOZUKA OF ANTS ON ROTTEN BARK

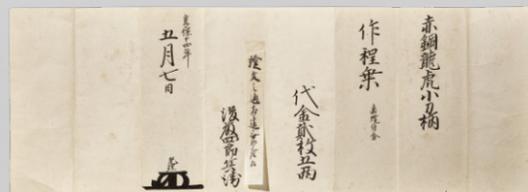
By Haruchika, signed Haruchika 春親
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The rather unusual kozuka made of two sections, one of shibuichi and one of shakudo, joined by two gold clips and a gold butterfly dovetail joint, depicting masterfully inlaid gold ants crawling on a piece of rotten bark. The reverse engraved with a branch-like design. With a fitted wood storage box, inscribed to the interior of the lid with an attestation by Amiya Soemon dated 1950.

LENGTH 9.8 cm
 WEIGHT 30.9 g

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



156
GOTO MITSUTAKA: A SUPERB SHAKUDO NANAKO KOZUKA WITH DRAGON AND TIGER

By Goto Mitsutaka (1722-1784) after a design by Goto Teijo (1603-1673), signed Teijo saku 程乗作 and Mitsutaka 光孝 with kakihan Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The front masterfully decorated in takazogan with a dragon and tiger above a superb shakudo-nanako ground, the reverse in gold with nekogaki ('cat scratch'), signed TEIJO saku and MITSUTAKA with kakihan. With a wood tomobako storage box with an attestation by Sato Kanzan (1907-1978), dated 1972. With an attestation origami [certificate] with the signature of Goto Mitsutada bearing a date of 1729.

LENGTH 9.6 cm
 WEIGHT 27.7 g

Condition: Excellent condition, minor expected surface wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

The Goto School of sword-fittings makers was founded in the fifteenth century by Goto Yujo, who is said to have been patronized by the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1435-1490). The work of the Goto masters is characterized by painterly designs carved in high relief on a ground of shakudo (an alloy of copper and gold chemically treated to turn a rich blue-black), finished in nanako (tiny circles punched regularly over the surface to give it a granular appearance) with colorful accents in gold and silver.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related nanako ground kozuka inscribed by Goto Mitsutaka, 18th century, note the nekogaki decoration to the reverse, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum, accession number 45.24.33.



AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related mitokoromono (set of kozuka, kogai and menuki) by Goto Etsujo after Goto Kenjo sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese and Korean Art, 17 March 2021, London, lot 659 (sold for 4,462 USD).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



157
MASATOMO: A FINE SHAKUDO AND GOLD FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH DRAGONS IN CRASHING WAVES

By Okada Masatomo, signed Masatomo 政知 saku 作 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

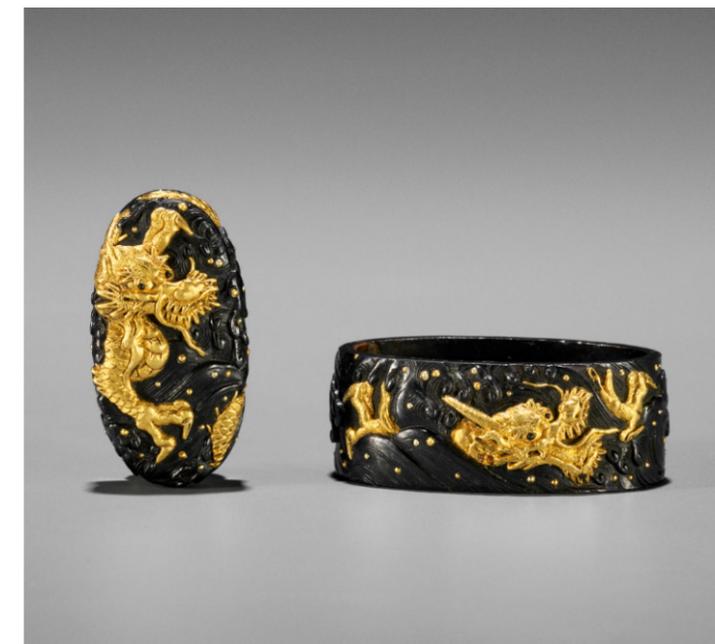
Of shakudo and very finely worked in gold takazogan, the fuchi and kashira each with a wrathful dragon amid crashing waves inlaid with gold and silver dew drops, the fuchi signed Chohan [...] MASATOMO saku.

LENGTH 4 cm
 WEIGHT 34.9 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Masatomo is listed on page 955, H 04569.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Masatomo, also known as Okada Masatomo, lived in Hagi, Nagato province, was the son of Masatomi, the seventh master of the Okada family school, and the retainer of the Mori Daimyo of Nagato.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



158
HOSAI: A SUPERB SHAKUDO AND GOLD FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH DRAGONS AMONGST CRASHING WAVES

By Hosai, signed Hosai 宝齋 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

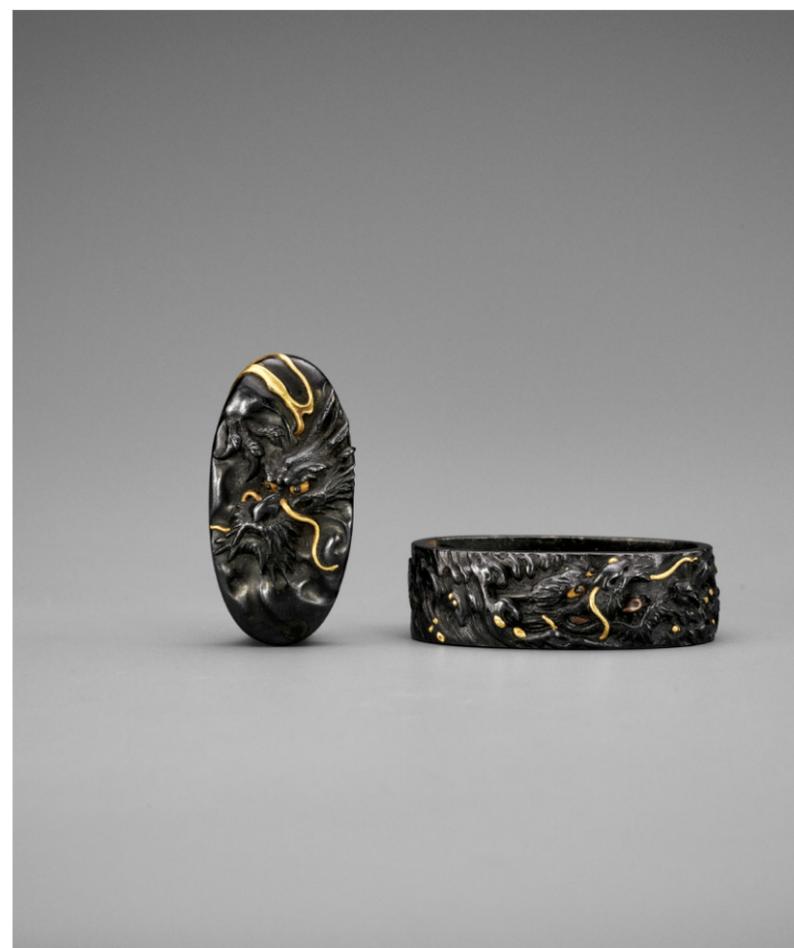
Finely modeled and superbly worked in high relief with details of gold, the fuchi and kashira each with a wrathful dragon amid crashing waves and gold dew drops, the eyes of shakudo. The fuchi signed HOSAI.

LENGTH 3.9 cm
 WEIGHT 35.1 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Hosai is listed on page 329, H 01624.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



159
**IWAMOTO KANRI: A FINE SHIBUICHI ISHIMEJI
 FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH SWALLOWS**

By Iwamoto Kanri (died 1815), signed Iwamoto Kanri 岩本寛利 with kao
 Japan, c. 1800, Edo period (1615-1868)



Of shibuichi and bearing a beautifully finished ishimeji ground, the design worked in gold, silver, shibuichi, copper, and shakudo takazogan, the kashira with a swallow flying beneath the moon, the fuchi depicting an idyllic scene with a swallow perched on a tree overhanging a straw hut, signed IWAMOTO KANRI with kakihan.

LENGTH 3.9 cm
 WEIGHT 37.7 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Iwamoto Kanri is listed on page 556, H 02659.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Also known as Asai Kanri. The artist lived in Edo and adopted the style of Konkani in his earlier work, while later developing his own style.

Auction comparison: Compare a related kashira and fuchi with sparrows by Asai Kanri, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Works of Art, 19 March 2008, New York, lot 5174 (**sold for 1,560 USD**).

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500

160
**YOSHIOKA INABANOSUKE: A SHIBUICHI AND GOLD
 FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH MANDARIN DUCKS**

By Yoshioka Inabanosuke, signed Yoshioka Inabanosuke 吉岡因幡之介
 Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)



Each bearing a wave-like ground decorated with gold, silver, copper, shibuichi, and shakudo takazogan, depicting mandarin ducks and water grass in a pond. The fuchi signed YOSHIOKA INABANOSUKE. With a fitted wood storage box.

LENGTH 3.8 cm
 WEIGHT 33.6 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Yoshioka Inabanosuke is listed on pages 390-391, H 01894.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. All generations of the Yoshioka school used this name; the early generations did not sign, while the later generations signed as Ibanasuke, sometimes adding Yoshioka. The family had very high standards in their work and were retainers of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Their pieces are comparable to the best of the Goto masters of their period and many pieces have been certified as true Goto school pieces.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500

161
**KURAMOTO TERUSHIGE: A SHAKUDO AND GOLD
 FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH CHIDORI**

By Kuramoto Terushige (circa 1750-1775), signed Kuramoto Terushige 藏本英茂 with kakihan
 Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)



Each bearing a shakudo-nanako ground, worked in fine gold takazogan depicting chidori (plovers) in flight, the kashira with seven chidori, the shitodome ringed in copper, the fuchi with five further chidori above crashing waves in high relief and with dew drops, signed KURAMOTO TERUSHIGE with kakihan.

LENGTH 3.5 cm
 WEIGHT 34.4 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Kuramoto Terushige is listed on page 1916, H 09624.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. Terushige was a student of Terumitsu and worked with and for the Edo Omori family school.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500

162
**TAKASE EIJU: A MASTERFUL
 TAKASE SCHOOL SHAKUDO
 KASHIRA AND FUCHI DEPICTING
 A FALCONS HUNTING EGRETS**

By Takase Eiju (1775-1800), signed Takase Eiju 高瀬栄壽 with kakihan
 Japan, late 18th-early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Bearing a superb shakudo-nanako ground, the kashira decorated with a descending falcon and bamboo in gold takazogan, the shitodome ringed in gold. The fuchi with three egrets in flight in gold and silver takazogan, signed TAKASE EIJU and with kakihan.

LENGTH 3.8 cm
 WEIGHT 46.1 g

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Takase Eiju is listed on page 115, H 00436.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes. The artist lived in Mito, Hitachi province, was a member of the Takase school and studied under the first Taizan Motozane.

Falconry (takagari) was introduced to Japan from China in the 4th century. Hunting with hawks and falcons is mentioned in the Kojiki (712). In the Heian period (794-1185), the sport of falconry was practiced by emperors and their courtiers. By the Kamakura period (1185-1333), samurai clans had established various schools, methods and traditions of hunting with falcons and hawks. By the Edo period (1615-1868), falconry was officially patronized by the shogunate and the position of master of falconry was established in the shogunate bureaucracy. This sword fitting set was likely intended for a falconer.



LITERATURE COMPARISON:
 Compare a related kashira with Horses by Takase Eiju, in the Walters Art Museum, accession number 51.906.



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



163
**TAKASE EIZUI: A FINE PAIR
 OF SHAKUDO NANAKO
 FUCHI AND KASHIRA WITH
 ROOSTER AND CHICK**

By Takase Eizui, signed Takase Eizui 高瀬荣随 with kakihan
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Each bearing a superb shakudo-nanako ground decorated with gold, shibuichi, silver, and copper takazogan, the kashira with a rooster and gilt-copper ringed shitodome, the fuchi with a rooster and a chick amid flowering vines and grass, signed TAKASE EIZUI with kao. With a fitted wood storage box dated 1975 and certified by Sato Kanzan.

LENGTH 4 cm
 WEIGHT 40.8 g

Condition: Excellent condition, minor expected wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Takase Eizui is listed on page 121, H 00468.0 in THE INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORD FITTINGS AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS by Robert E. Haynes.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



Netsuke & Sagemono

Lots 164 to 235

164
**AN UNUSUAL
ROOTWOOD OKIMONO
OF A LEAPING HARE**

Japan, Edo period (1615-1868)

Well carved in a dynamic pose with legs stretched out as if running or leaping, the animal further detailed with long ears, round eyes, and a short tail, the burl'd root wood finely stained.

LENGTH 13.4 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, expected minor age cracks, minor nicks and scratches.
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a closely related rootwood okimono at Bonhams Skinner, 15 September 2022, lot 1091, Marlborough, lot 1091 (sold for 2,040 USD).



Estimate EUR 1,000
Starting price EUR 500



165
**AN UNUSUAL
ROOTWOOD FIGURE
OF A FUGU (PUFFER) FISH**

Japan, Edo period (1615-1868)

The burl'd and knotted rootwood of attractive grain and color, left mostly untreated save for the front and back which have been carved to subtly render the fish's face with open mouth and bulging eyes, two small fins, as well as its long tail.

LENGTH 21 cm

Condition: Very good condition with old wear, minor age cracks, the underside with small losses which likely occurred before the piece was carved, occasional light scratches.
Provenance: British collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



166
**HIROYUKI: A FINE BOXWOOD
OKIMONO OF LONG-EARED HARES**

By Hiroyuki, signed Hiroyuki 廣之
Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Naturalistically modeled as a pair of rabbits with long ears, one standing with its front paws resting lightly on the back of its recumbent mate, the fur of both finely incised. Signed underneath HIROYUKI.

HEIGHT 28.8 cm

Condition: Good condition, minor surface wear, the paws with few small chips.
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a bronze okimono of a hare by Yoshinobu, Meiji period (1868-1912), at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 10 November 2011, London, lot 385 (sold for 6,875 GBP).



Estimate EUR 4,000
Starting price EUR 2,000





167
SHOKO SUGONoya: A RARE AND FINE WOOD OKIMONO OF A CAT GEISHA

By Shoko Sugonoya, signed Shoko
Japan, Takayama, Hida province, late 19th century, Meiji period
(1868-1912)

The cat standing on two legs, striking a dancing pose and masquerading as a woman, wearing a fine kimono with well-carved folds, the belt neatly incised with cloud designs at the front and roundels at the back. The animal detailed with sharp claws and finely incised fur, the eyes of bone and glass with black-lacquered pupils. The underside signed SHOKO.

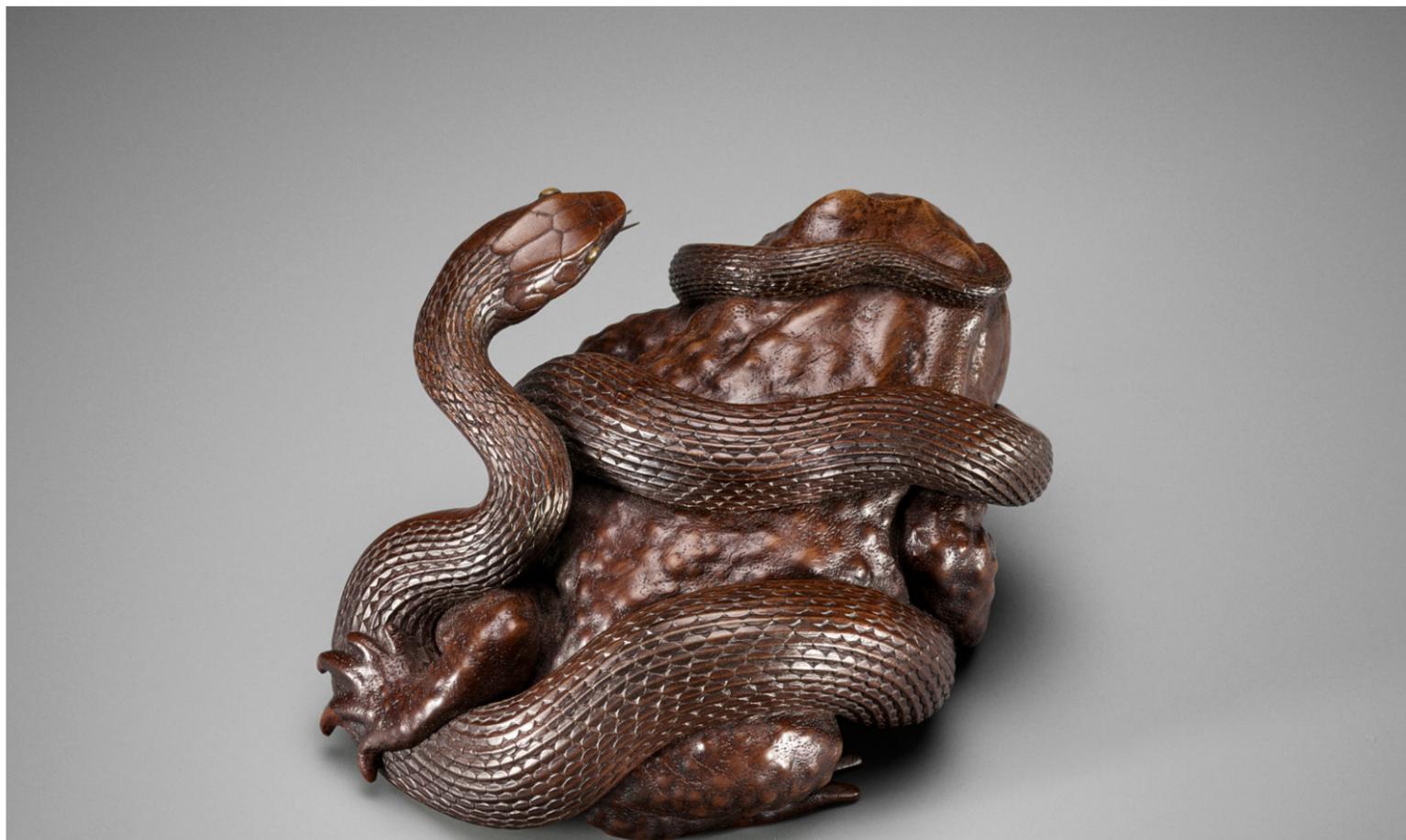
HEIGHT 30.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and few light surface scratches.
Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a related wood netsuke-okimono of a cat geisha and client, 6.2 cm high, at Zackle, 29 October 2021, Vienna, lot 201 (**sold for 8,848 EUR**). Compare a related wood netsuke by Ittan, 5.2 cm high, at Zackle, 16 April 2021, Vienna, lot 131 (**sold for 11,376 EUR**).

Estimate EUR 6,000
Starting price EUR 3,000





168
**SUKENOBU: A MASTERFUL WOOD
OKIMONO OF A TOAD AND SNAKE**

By Sukenobu, signed Sukenobu (Ryosho)
Japan, Takayama, Hida province, late 19th century, Meiji period
(1868-1912)

Intricately and realistically carved as a toad attempting to fend off a snake which has encircled it threateningly, one of the toad's eyes squinting under the pressure of the snake's tail wrapped around its head, the serpent with the mouth wide open and split tongue stretched out, the scales neatly rendered, the toad detailed with masterful ukibori, both animals' eyes double-inlaid with dark and translucent horn, the toad's underbelly signed SUKENOBU within a rectangular reserve.

LENGTH 17 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few minor age cracks, occasional light scratches.

With an associated black and gold-lacquered wood stand supported on four feet and decorated with butterflies as well as floral and foliate designs, dating from the same period.

The present okimono alludes to the story of Jiraiya (lit. 'Young Thunder'), the toad-riding protagonist of the Japanese folk tale Katakuchi Kidan Jiraiya Monogatari. The tale was originally a Yomihon that was published in 1806-1807 and was adapted into a serialized novel that was written by different authors and published in 43 installments from 1839 to 1868; one of its illustrators was woodblock artist Kunisada. Jiraiya was a ninja who used shape-shifting magic to transform into a giant toad. His arch nemesis is Yasagoro, a master of serpent magic.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related wood okimono signed Sukekazu, also dated Meiji period, late 19th century, 14.5 cm wide, at Christie's, 5 December 2017, London, lot 20 (sold for **10,625 GBP**). Compare a related wood okimono of a snake and skull by Sukeyuki at Zacke, 28 October 2020, Vienna, lot 188 (sold for **17,696 EUR**).



Estimate EUR 15,000
Starting price EUR 8,000



Finely carved in openwork as a tall rock with scattered grasses, bamboo leaves, and reishi fungi, a sinuous serpent writhing through the holes in the rock, the eyes double inlaid with pale translucent and dark horn, the scaled body neatly incised, the rock's porous texture detailed with fine stippling. Signed underneath Sentei SUKEYUKI zo [made by Sentei Sukeyuki].

HEIGHT 7.7 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, few minuscule age cracks, the base with few tiny nicks and light scratches, one inlaid eye is replaced.
Provenance: British collection.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related wood okimono by Sukeyuki, 9.7 cm high, in the collection of the British Museum, purchased from Sydney Moss Ltd., registration number 1980,1016.2.



Auction comparison: Compare a related wood netsuke of a snake and skull by Sukeyuki, 3.5 cm high, at Zackle, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 16 April 2021, Vienna, lot 151 (sold for 17,696 EUR), and a related wood okimono of a snake and skull by Sukeyuki, 12 cm high, at Zackle, Fine Japanese Art, 28 October 2020, Vienna, lot 188 (sold for 17,696 EUR).

Estimate EUR 5,000
Starting price EUR 2,400

169
SUKEYUKI: A FINE WOOD OKIMONO OF A SNAKE WINDING THROUGH A ROCK

By Sukeyuki, signed Sentei Sukeyuki zo
Japan, Hida province, Takayama, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)



170
ITTOKUSAI: A BOXWOOD NETSUKE OKIMONO OF AN OWL WITH MOVABLE OWLETS

By Ittokusai, signed Ittokusai
Japan, late 19th century

Finely carved, the bird seated on a creeper-clad trunk, the head slightly turned to the right, with a small movable wood owllet emerging from a hole in the branch below, the owl's large round eyes double-inlaid in amber and dark horn, the plumage neatly detailed, the owllet with inlaid eyes. Signed ITTOKUSAI underneath.

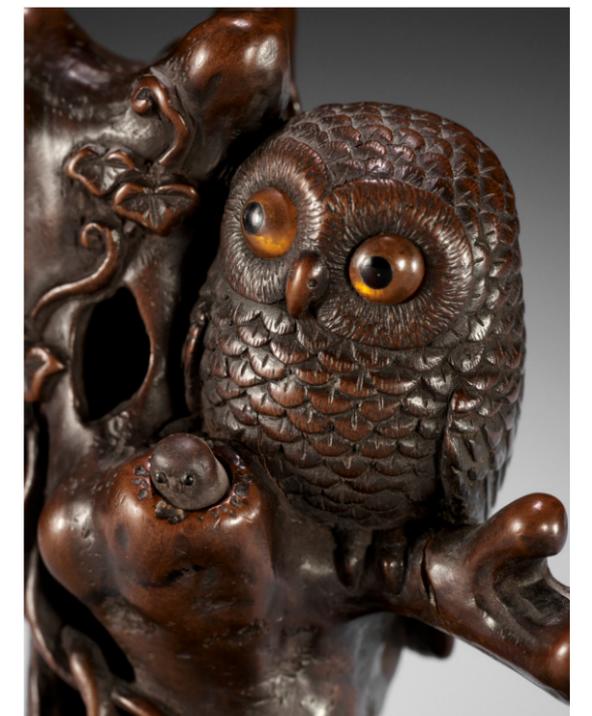
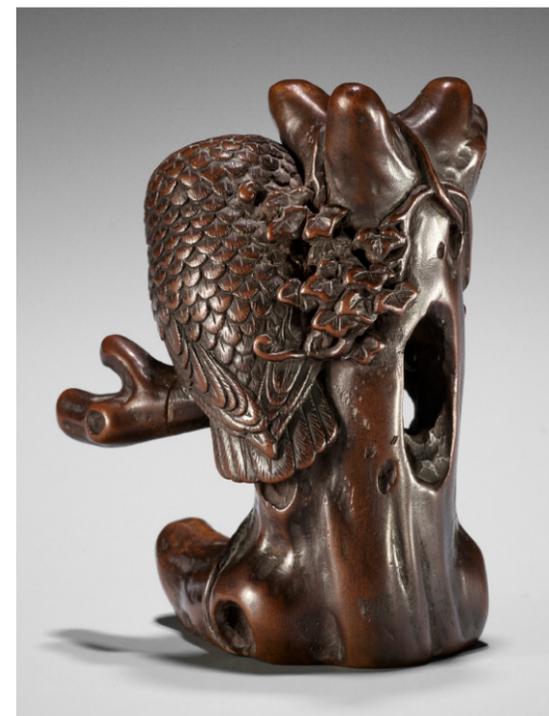
HEIGHT 8.3 cm

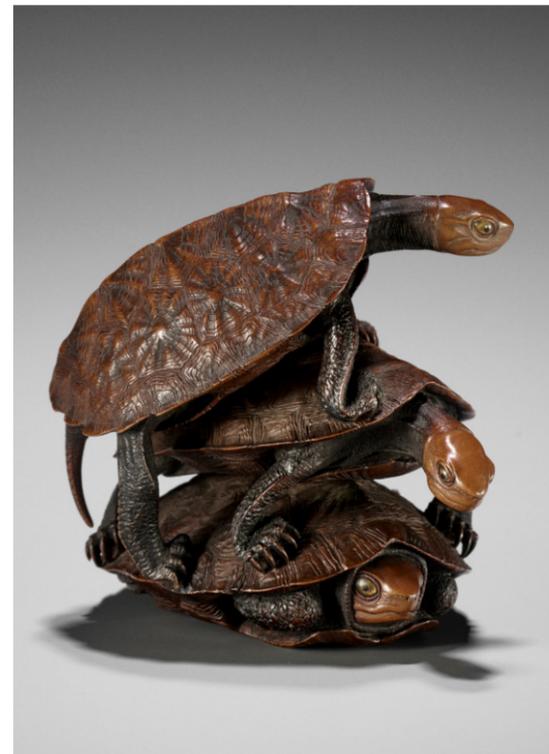
Condition: Good condition, minor wear, one segment of the branch re-attached and with associated minor losses. Fine, dark patina.
Provenance: French private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related wood netsuke of an owl with movable owllets by Ikkyu, 19th century, at Zackle, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 22 April 2022, Vienna, lot 130 (sold for 5,056 EUR). Compare a related wood netsuke of an owl with movable owllets by Tou, in the style of Ikkyu, 19th century, Bonhams, The Julius and Arlette Katchen Collection of Fine Netsuke Part I, 8 November 2016, London, lot 145 (sold for 4,000 GBP).

Estimate EUR 3,000
Starting price EUR 1,500





171
**DORAKU:
A SUPERB WOOD OKIMONO
OF THREE TURTLES**

By Doraku, signed Doraku
Japan, Osaka, late 19th century, Meiji period
(1868-1912)

Well carved, the bottom turtle almost entirely enveloped in its carapace with only the head peeking out slightly, a second turtle clambering on its shell surmounted by a third. The turtles' limbs and carapaces are minutely incised, their faces are finely rendered, and their eyes are double-inlaid with dark and translucent horn. Signed DORAKU to the underbelly of the bottom turtle.

HEIGHT 8.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and few minuscule chips to edges.

Estimate EUR 15,000
Starting price EUR 8,000





172
**TADAKAZU: A FINE WOOD OKIMONO
 OF A TURTLE PILE**

By Tadakazu (Chuichi), signed Tadakazu
 Japan, Osaka, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Comprising ten turtles of varying sizes, the largest on the ground in a recumbent pose forming the platform for its companions to surmount whilst the others clamber atop to form a pyramid, their eyes inlaid with dark horn, their carapaces neatly incised, and their skins textured with cross-hatched incision work. Signed to the largest turtle's underbelly within a rectangular reserve TADAKAZU. The present okimono underlines why the artist became famous for this model.

HEIGHT 13.6 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, the head of the topmost turtle has been reattached.
 Provenance: British collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a closely related okimono by Tadakazu, also with ten turtles, 9 cm high, at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 17 May 2012, London, lot 142 (sold for 6,875 GBP).

Estimate EUR 5,000
 Starting price EUR 2,400



173
**ITSUMIN: A FINE WOOD OKIMONO
 OF NUMEROUS RATS**

By Hokyudo Itsumin, signed Itsumin
 Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Carved as a remarkably dense and intricate pile of ten rats clambering on top of each other, their fur finely incised and long tails well-carved and curling around. All eyes are inlaid in dark horn. Signed underneath within an inlaid plaque ITSUMIN.

HEIGHT 14.7 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: European collection.

Hokyudo Itsumin was a highly talented carver of netsuke and okimono who likely started his career in Nagoya, possibly as a pupil of Ittan, and later moved to Edo (Tokyo).

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 For a closely related wood okimono of numerous rats, in the style of Itsumin, measuring 6.7 cm, see Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 14 May 2015, London, lot 299 (sold for 3,125 GBP).

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price 1,500



174

KAJIKAWA: A GOLD-LACQUER FOUR-CASE INRO DEPICTING EBISU AND DAIKOKU

By a member of the Kajikawa family, signed Kajikawa saku Japan, 19th century

Of lenticular form, bearing a kinji ground, finely decorated in predominantly gold takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with inlays of ivory to depict to one side Ebisu standing in a dynamic pose beside a fishing rod and a large fish inside a basket, holding a fan, and to the other with Daikoku holding a drum and carrying his large sack, his mallet tucked into his belt, both lucky gods beneath a line of shimenawa amid thick clouds and with tama pearls strewn on the ground before them, the interiors of nashiji with gold fundame edges, the base signed KAJIKAWA saku [made by Kajikawa].

HEIGHT 8.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a wood tomobako.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

For a closely related inro, signed Shibayama and Shokasai, see Lempertz, Asian Art, 7 December 2018, Cologne, lot 559 (sold for 2,750 EUR).

Estimate EUR 2,500
Starting price EUR 1,200



175

A RARE GOLD-LACQUERED IVORY FOUR-CASE INRO ENSEMBLE DEPICTING A PHEASANT AND PLOVERS AMID CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of rounded rectangular form, the ivory ground richly decorated with two kinji-ground panels lacquered in gold and red takamaki-e with kirikane and e-nashiji to depict a golden pheasant (kinkei) perched on a branch of a flowering cherry (sakura) tree to one side and two plovers (chidori) flying amid cherry blossoms to the other, the panels surrounded by an intricate design of leafy scrolling vines (karakusa) in gold takamaki-e, the globular ivory ojime similarly decorated with plovers amid leafy scrolling vines, the kagamibuta-style manju ivory netsuke with a gold-lacquered plate decorated with cherry blossoms.

HEIGHT 9.8 cm (the inro), DIAMETER 1.5 cm (the ojime) and 3.5 cm (the netsuke)

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and few tiny losses to lacquer.
Provenance: Dutch collection.

With a black-lacquered storage box with gold-lacquered inscription.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related gold-lacquered ivory inro ensemble depicting pheasants and sparrows by Hara Yoyusai at Zacks, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 25 September 2020, Vienna, lot 279 (sold for 3,792 EUR).



Estimate EUR 3,000
Starting price EUR 1,500





176
**BIHO: A LACQUER TWO-CASE INRO
 DEPICTING MOMOTARO WITH HIS
 ANIMAL COMPANIONS AND TREASURE**

By Biho, signed Biho
 Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Of rounded rectangular form, bearing a roiro ground richly decorated in iro-e takamaki-e with aogai and kirikane to depict Momotaro standing and holding a fan, as his animal companions move along their cart filled with numerous precious treasures including coral branches, a magic mallet, a large hat, and a chest, the dog and pheasant pulling the cart from the front while the monkey pushes it from behind. The interior of roiro with gold edges. The reverse with the gold-lacquered signature BIHO.



Momotaro swinging the magic mallet (uchide no kozuchi), with his animal companions, by Santo Kyoden, 1804

HEIGHT 6.8 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, few minuscule nicks, tiny losses to lacquer.
 Provenance: French private collection.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



177
**KAJIKAWA BUNRYUSAI:
 A THREE-CASE LACQUER INRO**

By Kajikawa Bunryusai, signed Bunryusai with kakihan
 Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of rounded rectangular form, the roiro ground finely decorated in gold and silver takamaki-e and hiramaki-e with kirikane and e-nashiji to depict a dragon coiled amid waves inside a large antique bronze censer supported on a rocky outpost, the design continued onto the reverse with water lilies and reeds by a meandering stream, the interiors of nashiji with gold fundame edges, the base with the gold-lacquered signature BUNRUYSAI and red-lacquered kakihan.

HEIGHT 7.1 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, few minor losses and tiny nibbles to lacquer.
 Provenance: German private collection.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related inro by Kajikawa Bunryusai, dated ca. 1775-1850, 8.8 cm high, in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum, accession number W.431-1916.



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

178
**A LACQUERED WOOD
 TWO-CASE INRO WITH
 CHRYSANTHEMUMS**

Japan, 18th-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of ovoid form, the attractive wood grain heightened with translucent lacquer, decorated in gold, silver, and red takamaki-e with leafy chrysanthemum sprays to both sides, the interior showing the fine, dense wood grain.

HEIGHT 6.2 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and traces of use, expected minor age cracks.

Provenance: De-accessioned from the Strong National Museum of Play.



Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500

**The Strong National
 Museum of Play**



179
**JOSEN: AN INLAID AND LACQUERED WOOD
 SINGLE-CASE INRO DEPICTING LUNAR HARES**

By Josen, signed Josen with kakihan
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of stylized moon form, the dark wood ground finely inlaid with a rabbit to either side, one in metal seated in a recumbent pose with gilt eyes and the other inlaid in darker wood seated on its haunches and looking up toward the sky, and decorated in gold hiramaki-e with grasses, the base incised with the signature JOSEN with a kakihan.

HEIGHT 5.5 cm

Condition: Good condition with some wear, small nicks, occasional light scratches, minor rubbing to lacquer.
 Provenance: British collection.

The design of the inro is very clever, its shape already hinting at the presence of the lunar hares depicted to either side. This popular motif originates in China, where the rabbit is often portrayed as a companion of the Moon goddess Chang'e, constantly pounding the elixir of life for her.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



180
**SHUOSAI: AN INLAID WOOD TONKOTSU
 DEPICTING MONKEYS AND PEACHES
 WITH EN-SUITE NETSUKES AND OJIME**

By Shuosai, signed Shuosai
 Japan, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912); the netsuke 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of beehive form, finely carved and with a troop of monkeys descending on a fruiting peach tree, some of the leaves and fruit inlaid in ivory, some of which are stained green, as well as amber and horn, the eyes double inlaid in pale and dark horn, the flat base signed SHUOSAI.

With a wood ojime in the form of a monkey hugging the cord, and an 18th-century wood netsuke carved as a seated monkey holding a giant chestnut, some of the details lacquered.

WIDTH 9 cm (the tonkotsu), HEIGHT 5.1 cm (the netsuke) and 2.4 cm (the ojime)

Condition: Very good condition, few minor age cracks, the netsuke and ojime with few minuscule nicks.
 Provenance: Dutch collection. The interior of the cover with an old Japanese label.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related boxwood tonkotsu, ojime and netsuke set, also signed Shuosai, sold at Bonhams, The Arno Ziesnitz Collection, 21 March 2018, New York, lot 1044 (sold for 4,375 USD).

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



181
**KATSUYOSHI: AN UNUSUAL
 WOOD TONKOTSU WITH STAG ANTLER
 ONI FINIAL**

By Katsuyoshi, signed Katsuyoshi
 Japan, first half of 20th century

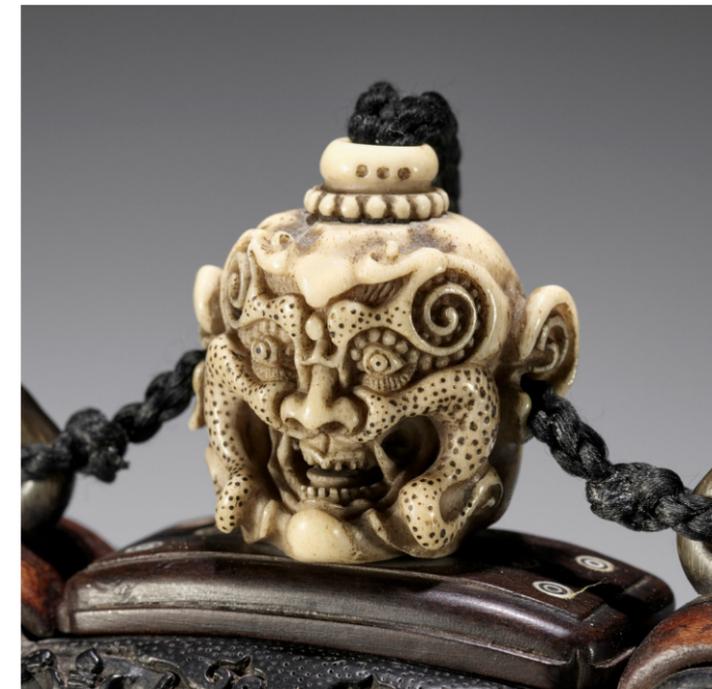
Of stylized pouch form, each side with a dark wood panel carved in relief to one side with a shishi prancing above a kirin within a palace scene with blossoming branches, swirling clouds, pavilions, and a pagoda, continuing onto the reverse with further opulent palace structures. The cover surmounted by a superbly carved stag antler finial with a turning lock mechanism in the form of a fierce oni head, flanked by finely carved buffalo horn double-gourd-form cord runners, the narrow sides decorated with stag-antler-inlaid circular designs. The base inlaid with a gold plaque signed KATSUYOSHI.

WIDTH 10 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few natural age cracks, few minor losses to inlays.
 Provenance: Formerly from a noted German private collection, Munich.

The artist appears to be unrecorded, but clearly a talented individual who was versatile in many different materials.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500





182
**A LARGE AND RARE STAG ANTLER
 YATATE (PORTABLE WRITING SET)
 WITH TSUKUMOGAMI SUMITSUBO**

Unsigned
 Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa district, late 19th century

The yatate comprising a large fudezutsu (brush holder) and a container for ink (sumitsubo) or perhaps incense. The fudezutsu shaped as several pots for the tea ceremony, with one large and five smaller hinged compartments, cleverly utilizing the natural form of the material, one compartment carrying a small knife (kogatana). The sumitsubo in the form of a pot transformed into a two-legged mythical beast (tsukumogami) with inlaid eyes and openworked handle, and with two hinged compartments, the smaller one integrating a third compartment behind the lid.

LENGTH 25.5 cm (the fudezutsu), LENGTH 8.8 cm (the ink container)

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, light surface scratches, few minuscule nibbles to exposed areas.
 Provenance: British collection.

Literature comparison: Compare a closely related stag antler yatate set, late 19th century, illustrated in Moss, Sydney L. (2016) Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan, vol. III, p. 308-309, no. 521.

Tsukumogami are animate household objects. After a service life of nearly one hundred years, utsuwamono or kibutsu (containers, tools, and instruments) receive souls (kami).

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



183
A STAG ANTLER 'LOTUS' TONKOTSU

Unsigned
 Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa district, mid to late 19th century

The stag antler tonkotsu carved as a lotus leaf with stem and bud, a large compartment at the center with hinged cover, the reverse featuring the stained and naturally dramatic texture of the material. The furled stem forming the cord attachment.

LENGTH 9.7 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: British collection.

Literature comparison: Compare two related stag antler tonkotsu by Shoryu, mid to late 19th century, illustrated in Moss, Sydney L. (2016) Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan, vol. III, p. 302-303, no. 518 and no. 519.

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200



184
A STAG ANTLER KISERUZUTSU OF TENAGA FISHING

Unsigned
 Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa district, late 19th century

Of musozutsu form, finely carved in high relief with Tenaga perched on a rock trying to catch an octopus with his amusingly long arms. The cord attachment in the form of a pine branch.

LENGTH 21.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few natural age cracks.
 Provenance: British private collection.

Tenaga and Ashinaga are yokai (spirits) in Japanese folklore which are often depicted together. The pair is commonly described as people from the "Long-legged Country", and the "Long-armed Country". As the names suggest, the inhabitants of these two countries possess unusually lengthy arms and legs.



Ashinaga and Tenaga fishing, by Utagawa Kuniyoshi

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



185
IKKO: A RARE BAMBOO FUDEZUTSU OF A MAGPIE ON PRUNUS

By Hasegawa Ikko, signed Ikko 一虎 with seal
 Japan, late 18th to early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The fudezutsu (brush case) carved in shishiaibori with a magpie perched on a blossoming prunus branch, its head raised upwards, the brush case with a metal mount, hinged cover, and wood end. Signed to the reverse IKKO and seal HASEGAWA.

LENGTH 28.6 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, light surface scratches, natural age cracks, a small rectangular piece inset to the narrow side.
 Provenance: British private collection.

Hasegawa Ikko covered a wide range of subjects but excelled especially in his representation of animal and plant life. His style generally followed the traditions of early masters such as Korin and Ritsuo but was also influenced by his fellow craftsman Minko.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



186
HOGETSU NORITOMO: A FINE MIXED METAL AND BAMBOO KISERU (PIPE)

By Hogetsu Noritomo, signed Hogetsu Noritomo (Jochi) 峯月乘知
 Japan, Edo period (1615-1868)

The shibuichi fittings decorated in gilt and silver with a majestic dragon, cherry blossoms, and the full moon, connected by a bamboo segment, the mouthpiece and bowl in gilt. Signed in gold zogan HOGETSU NORITOMO.

LENGTH 21.4 cm
 WEIGHT 73.7 g

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear.
 Provenance: British private collection.

Hogetsu Noritomo, active in the mid-Edo period, is listed in Wakayama Takeshi, Toso Kinko Jiten, p. 309. Hogetsu Noritomo, also known as Omori Noritomo, with the original surname Akashio, was granted the right to use Omori as a family name. He was a samurai retainer at the Ueda domain in Shinshu, today's Nagano prefecture. He studied in Edo under Nara Joi, one of the three metal master smiths of the Nara School in metal crafting, and later under Omori Hidetomo.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



187
A RARE SILVER YATATE IN THE FORM OF GAGAKU INSTRUMENTS

Japan, 19th century

Of ladle type, the fudezutsu (brush holder) in the form of a transverse flute with seven smaller and one larger hole divided by incised parallel lines, the sumitsubo (inkwell) in the form of a drum, tied with silver wire, both sharing the hinged lid with handle in the form of a drum beater.

LENGTH 18.2 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear and little tarnish to silver.
Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play, accession number 75.5397 (lacquered to base of inkwell). Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation

grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.

Gagaku (lit. 'elegant music') is a type of Japanese classical music that was historically used for imperial court music and dances. Gagaku was developed as court music of the Kyoto Imperial Palace, and its near-current form was established in the Heian period (794-1185) around the 10th century. Today, it is performed by the Board of Ceremonies in the Tokyo Imperial Palace.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related silver yatate set sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 17 May 2018, London, lot 143 (**sold for 3,750 GBP**).

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500





188
**KINJO: A GOLD INLAID COPPER
 KISERUZUTSU WITH TIGER AND DRAGON**

By Ikeda Kinjo, signed Kinjo 琴乘
 Japan, c. 1860

The pipe case of otoshi-zutsu type with subtle curvature, the design finely executed in katakiri and kebori with a tiger resting under towering stalks of leafy bamboo to one side and a dragon amid swirling clouds and crashing waves to the reverse, their eyes inlaid in gold. The cord attachment in the form of a flower head, signed KINJO to the side.

LENGTH 17.7 cm

Condition: Good condition, minor wear, few small dents, light surface scratches, one gold inlay to the tiger's eye lost.

Provenance: The Strong National Museum of Play. Margaret Woodbury Strong (1897-1969) grew up in a prosperous family of collectors. Her interests ranged so widely that by 1960 she had amassed more than 27,000 collectible items and works of art. The vast majority of her collections related in some way to play and as her accumulation grew, Margaret planned a museum to house her collection. It eventually opened to the public in 1982, and grew dramatically over the following decades, expanding its collections, facilities, and resources, now spanning over 285,000 square feet. Today, the Strong National Museum of Play (known as just The Strong Museum or simply The Strong) is the only collections-based museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play.

Ikeda Kinjo, born in Tsuruoka, moved to Edo to study metal engraving from Ikkin Funada. He then returned to Tsuruoka and began making props for sword fittings, specializing in Ikkin style katakiri carvings.

Both the tiger and dragon have important meanings in Buddhist and Taoist philosophy, together representing the yin and yang, the earth and sky, or the male and female. Furthermore, they represent strength, resilience, and courage.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500

189
A FINE SHIBUICHI 'TAKE NI TORA' MANJU

Unsigned
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The shibuichi manju decorated in the front in very fine katakiri and ke-bori with a tiger crouching behind bamboo. The reverse with a cord attachment as a metal loop in silver.

DIAMETER 3.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few small nicks, and light surface scratches.
 Provenance: European collection.

This motif is called take ni tora, "tiger in bamboo". There are many different interpretations; the tiger has a strong nature, is flexible and resilient like the bamboo, but it is also said that the strong tiger is looking for shelter underneath the bamboo, as any earthly power is inferior to the forces of nature. Moreover, the tiger and bamboo represent the power of faith in Buddhism.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



190
**A GOOD KYOTO SCHOOL
 IVORY NETSUKE OF A TIGER**

Unsigned
 Japan, Kyoto, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A compact ivory netsuke of a tiger, with its head tilted backwards and left hindleg raised, capturing the moment before the tiger scratches himself. The bold and expressive eyebrows, the manner of fur coat, as well as the individual charm and expression of the piece allow for an attribution to the Okatomo school. The tiger, or tora, is the third animal of the zodiac and a symbol of resilience and strength. Good, generously excavated himotoshi underneath.

HEIGHT 4.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor expected age cracks, very good patina.
 Provenance: European private collection.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



191
**A RARE IVORY 'SILK SEAL' TYPE
NETSUKE OF A FOREIGNER**

Unsigned
Japan, late 17th to early 18th century, Edo period
(1615-1868)

Published: Sydney L. Moss Ltd. (2016) Kokusai the
Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan, vol. I, p. 119-
120, no. 10.

Carved as a foreigner, decorated with a finely incised
collar and elaborate ruff, the face with a grotesque,
grim expression. Three large himotoshi for the cord
attachment.

HEIGHT 3.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few
natural age cracks. Deep honey-yellow patina.

Provenance: German private collection, ex-collection
June Schuerch (1930-2009).

The preferred material for this type of netsuke was
stag antler. Ivory silk-seal netsuke are very rare.

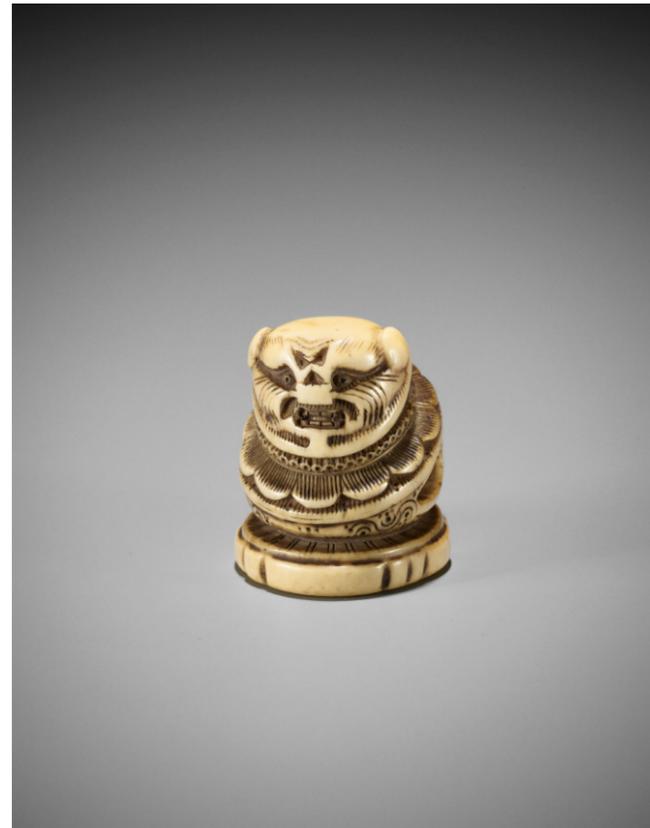
AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related stag antler silk
seal netsuke, 17th-18th century, at
Christie's, Japanese Art & Design, 4
November 2009, London, lot 102
(sold for 1,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 1,000

Starting price EUR 500



192
**YOSHITOMO: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE
OF HOTEI AND KARAKO**

By Yoshitomo, signed Yoshitomo 吉友
Japan, Kyoto, late 18th century, Edo period
(1615-1868)

Smiling and facing ahead, supporting a karako (Chinese
boy) on his back, his loose robe belted at the waist,
baring his chest and distended stomach, holding a fan
in his right hand, the ears with long pendulous lobes,
the himotoshi well integrated to the design, signed to
the back YOSHITOMO in an oval reserve.

HEIGHT 5.8 cm

Condition: Good condition, appealingly worn, few
natural age cracks, the feet restored. Fine honey-yellow
patina.

Provenance: German private collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related
ivory netsuke of Hotei by
Yoshitomo, at Christie's,
An Important European
Collection of Netsuke, 14
November 2001, London, lot
68 **(sold for 10,575 GBP)**.



Estimate EUR 1,500

Starting price EUR 800



193
**A CHARMING IVORY NETSUKE
OF HOTEI WITH PUPPY**

Unsigned
Japan, early 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Depicting Hotei seated, leaning on his treasure bag,
his face with a content expression, the other hand
resting on the knee, his loose robe belted at the waist,
baring his chest and distended stomach, a small puppy
clambering on his leg. Large himotoshi through the
bag.

LENGTH 3.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few
natural age cracks. Fine honey-yellow patina.
Provenance: German private collection.

Estimate EUR 1,000

Starting price EUR 500

194
**A CHARMING IVORY NETSUKE
OF A SLEEPING TEMPLE SERVANT (EJI)**

Unsigned
Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The temple servant (eji) taking a break, resting his head
on the right hand while holding a parasol in his left
hand, his face with an intensely tired expression. Deep
himotoshi through the back and underside.

HEIGHT 3.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few
natural age cracks. Fine honey-yellow, unctuous patina.
Provenance: German private collection.

Estimate EUR 1,000

Starting price EUR 500





195
MINKOKU: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE
OF TWO WOMEN WITH AN INFANT

By Genryosai Minkoku, signed Minkoku 民谷
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Published: Zacke (1988), Ausstellung Marcel Lorber (1900-1986).
 3.Teil: Japanische Netsuke aus seinem Nachlass, no. 17.

Finely carved and attractively stained deep-yellow, depicting a mother resting on top of a mortar and breastfeeding her young infant, a woman next to her holding a large pestle and grabbing the child's arm. The expressions are superbly detailed, crafted in the typical manner of the artist. The women's garments are elaborately carved and embellished with scrolling foliage and butterflies. Natural himotoshi and signed underneath the mortar MINKOKU within a rectangular reserve. The slightly worn ivory bearing a beautiful patina.

HEIGHT 4.6 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few age cracks.

Provenance: Ex-collection Marcel Lorber (1900-1986), sold at Zacke in 1988. Ex-collection Teddy Hahn, Darmstadt.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

For a discussion of the artist see Rimondi, Giovanni (Fall 2017) Genryosai Minkoku, an Early Edo Netsukeshi, Part 2, International Netsuke Society Journal, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 30-39. Compare to two closely related netsuke, one in wood and one in ivory, see fig.14 & 15.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



Marcel Lorber
 (1900-1986)



196
MASATSUGU: A GOOD IVORY
NETSUKE OF TWO WARRIORS

School of Kaigyokusai Masatsugu (1813-1892), signed Masatsugu 正次
 Japan, Osaka, mid to late 19th century

Depicting a dynamic scene of a warrior, most likely Rincho from the water margin, overwhelming his enemy, his foot holding the foe down while he draws his sword, his face with a fierce expression. His squirming enemy is toppled over on the ground, arms flailing, his expression marked by fear. The robes of the two are finely carved and stained with stippled details. 'Chimney himotoshi' through the back and underneath, the minutely incised signature MASATSUGU within an oval reserve.

HEIGHT 4.6 cm

Condition: Some old repairs and restorations to the sword and hand of the toppled foe. Otherwise, good condition with minor wear. Presents well.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:

Compare a related Okimono of Watanabe no Tsuna by Kaigokudo Masatsugu, 19th century, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, accession number A.803-1910.



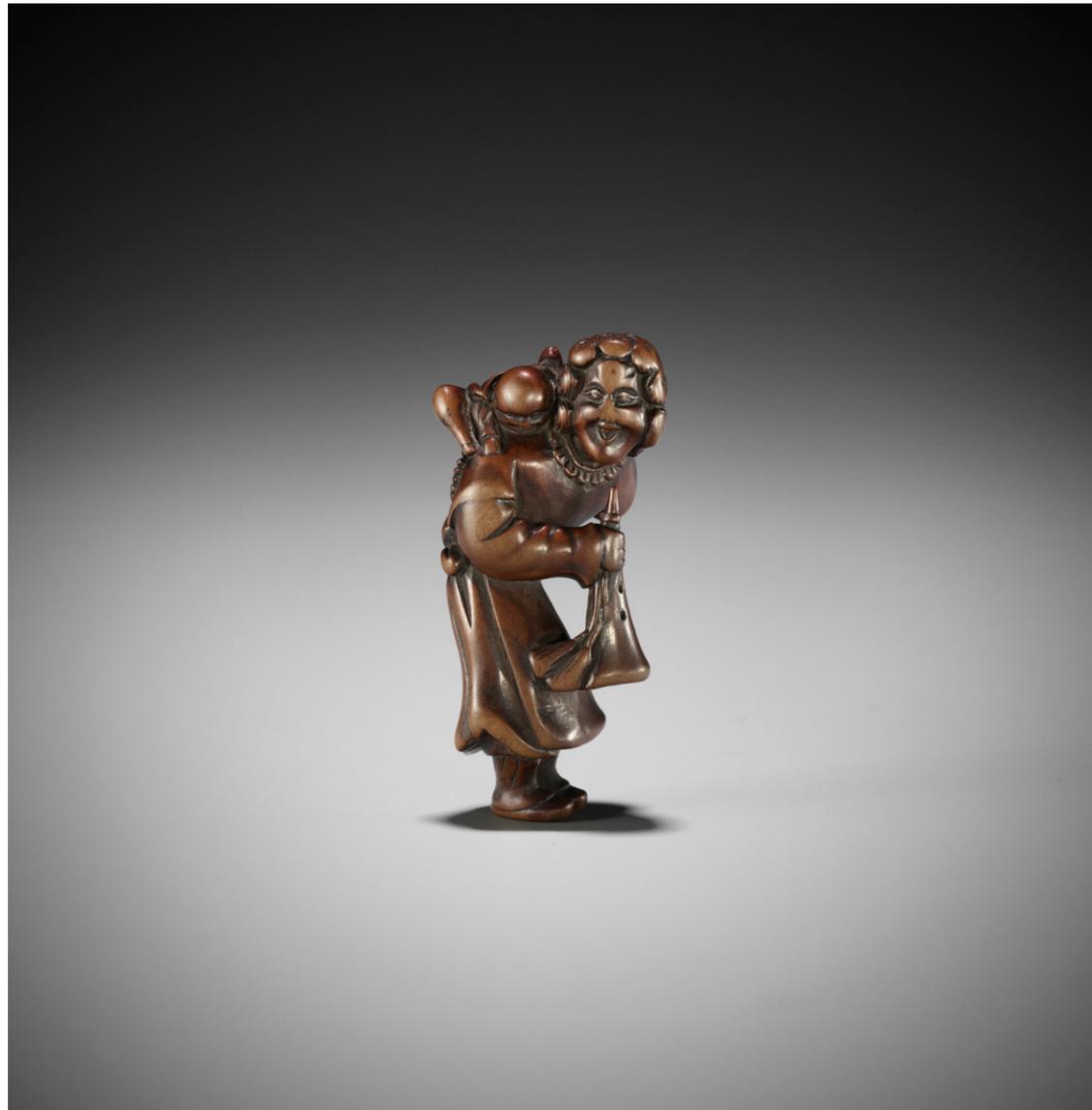
Rincho (Chinese: Lin Chong) is a fictional character in Water Margin, one of the Four Great Classical Novels in Chinese literature. Nicknamed 'Panther Head', he ranks sixth among the 36 Heavenly Spirits, the first third of the 108 Stars of Destiny.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



Woodblock print by
Utagawa Kuniyosh
 depicting Rinshu felling
 an enemy, c. 1830





197
**A GOOD WOOD NETSUKE OF
 A DUTCHMAN WITH CHILD**

Unsigned
 Japan, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Typically depicted with shoulder-length, curling hair and exaggerated features, clad in a coat of finely detailed texture with a pleated collar, carrying a boy on his back and a trumpet in his right hand. The expression of each is very finely crafted, the eyes with minutely carved pupils. The wood bearing a fine patina, large himotoshi through the back.

HEIGHT 6.7 cm

Condition: Very good condition, appealingly worn, with minor surface wear, few natural age cracks. Fine, naturally grown, dark patina.
 Provenance: European collection.

In the Edo period, Dutch merchants were the only Europeans admitted to Japan, where they were confined to the island of Deshima. Netsuke representing foreigners were popular in this period, and a number of examples in ivory are in museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of New York (no. 10.211.1506) and the British Museum (F.558). Interestingly, the lapa (trumpet) in this Dutchman's hand is also foreign, being of Chinese origin.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related wood netsuke of a Dutchman with child, sold at Zackle, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 29 October 2021, Vienna, lot 4 (sold for 3,286 EUR).
 Compare a closely related wood netsuke of a Dutchman with child, sold at Zackle, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 22 April 2022, Vienna, lot 17 (sold for 3,034 EUR).



Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200

198
**ENSAI: A VERY RARE WOOD
 NETSUKE OF TSURU SENNIN**

By Ensai, signed Ensai 宴齋
 Japan, 19th century

Finely carved as the 'crane sennin' standing and holding a basket in one hand and crane's feet in the other hand, dressed in a long flowing robe with a leafy apron and vest. Small himotoshi through the back, signed ENSAI.

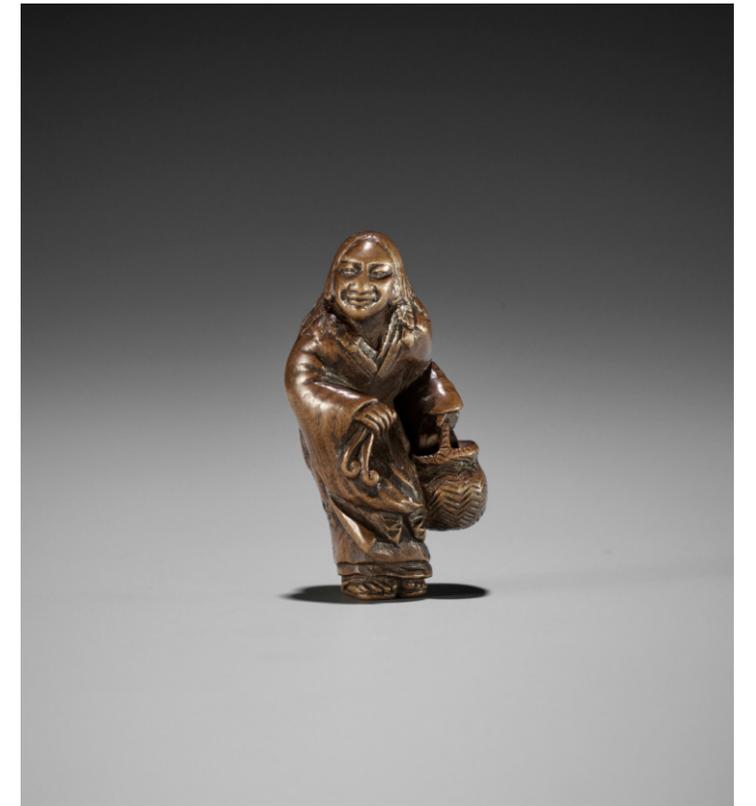
HEIGHT 4.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: European collection.

Works by this artist are extremely rare, only three other figural examples appear to be recorded: one of Rokusuke and Kappa, sold at Sotheby's, 10 June 1977, lot 73. The second one depicts Tamamo no Mae, formerly in the W.L. Behrens Collection, no.477, illustrated in George Lazarnick, Netsuke and Inro Artists and How to Read Their Signatures, p.365.

Auction comparison: The third known netsuke by this rare artist was sold at Sotheby's, The Katchen Collection of Netsuke Part II, 13 July 2006, London, lot 319 (sold for 4,800 GBP).

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



199
**ROKKO: A FINE WOOD
 NETSUKE OF JUROJIN**

By Rokko, signed Rokko 六甲
 Japan, Edo/Tokyo, mid to late 19th century

Jurojin standing, dressed in loose robes with voluminous sleeves, a reishi scepter and hyotan (double gourd) tied to his waist, holding an uchiwa in his right hand, the face with a joyful expression. The details are superbly carved and stained dark for effect. The cord attachment goes through underneath the hyotan.

HEIGHT 4.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear. Fine, smooth polish.
 Provenance: British private collection.

Auction comparison: A closely related wood okimono depicting Ebisu by Rokko was sold at Zackle, Fine Netsuke, Sagemono & Okimono, 2 June 2018, Vienna, lot 84 (sold for 4,297 EUR).

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



200
A GOOD STAG ANTLER NETSUKE OF KAN'U

Unsigned
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Standing wearing a coat with voluminous folds, the hem sweeping to one side, following the natural curvature of the material, secured with a belt, a sword attached to it, with neatly incised armor underneath, his right hand lowered and holding his halberd, the left hand at his waist, the face with a finely carved, determined expression and eyes inlaid with dark horn. The back with two himotoshi.

HEIGHT 8.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor surface wear, some natural flaws to the material.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare to a closely related stag antler netsuke of Kan'u, attributed to Tomohisa and of earlier date, sold at Zucke, Fine Netsuke & Sage mono, 16 April 2021, Vienna, lot 257 (sold for 5,056 EUR).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



201
A FINE STAG ANTLER NETSUKE OF KAN'U

Unsigned
 Japan, 19th century

The god of war standing, holding his halberd in the right hand and stroking his beard pensively, his armor and robe engraved in very fine detail with mail and floral medallions above stylized waves. The hat with a plug shaped as a rosette inlaid with dark horn. Good, asymmetrical himotoshi to the back.

HEIGHT 6.2 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
 Provenance: European collection.

Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



202
**AN IVORY MASK
NETSUKE OF AN ONI**

Unsigned
Japan, 18th century, Edo period
(1615-1868)

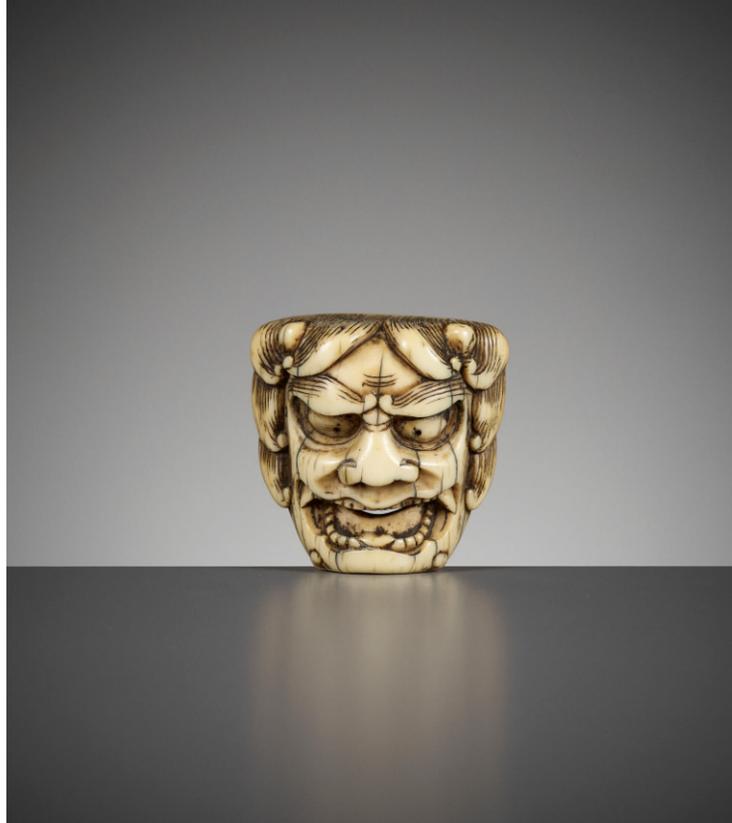
Finely carved as an oni with fierce expression framed by prominent curls to the hair and beard, the mouth agape showing tongue and sharp fangs, the two stubby horns visible at the top. The ivory bearing a superb patina, particularly to the back which is smoothed and honey-yellow. Himotoshi through the horizontal bar in the back. A pleasingly tactile, old ivory netsuke.

HEIGHT 3.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with many age cracks and a fine, deep patina.

Provenance: European collection P. Jacquesson, purchased from Limoges Encheres in March 2004.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



203
**RYOICHI: A MARINE IVORY
NETSUKE OF A NOH MASK,
KO-OMOTE**

By Ryoichi, signed Ryoichi 良一 with kakihan
Japan, Tokyo, late 19th century

The marine ivory finely carved and engraved to depict the face of a young woman with almond-shaped eyes and slender lips forming a subtle smile, stained in red, the reverse with a central himotoshi bar incised with a fan and signed RYOICHI with kakihan.

HEIGHT 3.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.
Provenance: European collection.

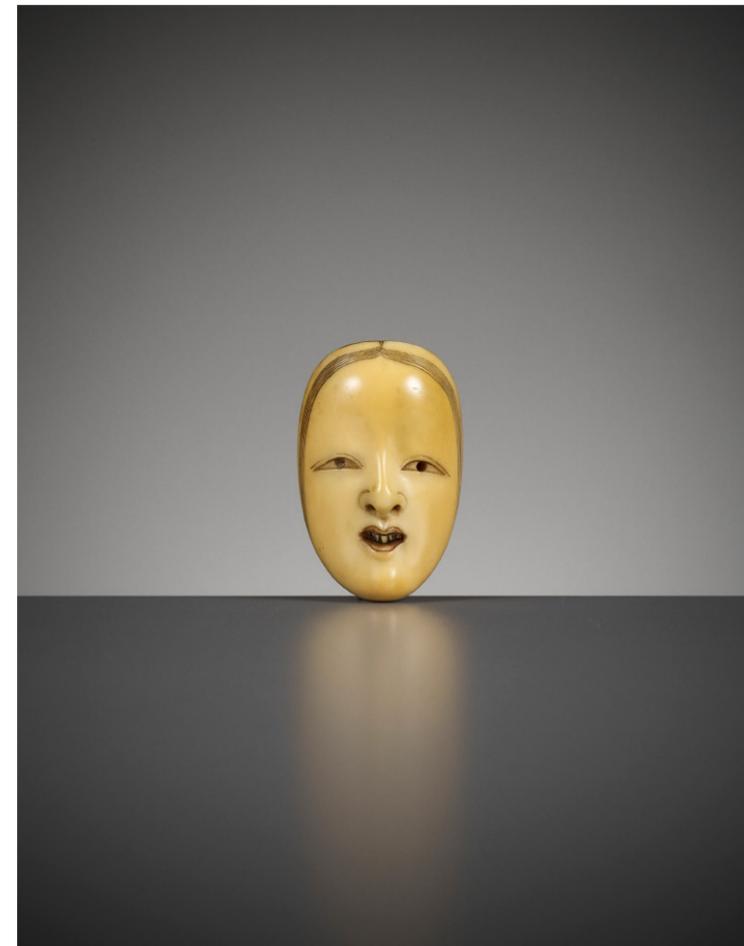
Ko-omote (literally, "little mask") conveys the beauty of a girl not yet twenty. A skilled actor can imbue an impassive expression with subtle emotion according to his movements; this is the prototype for more than twenty other masks for female roles, each varying subtly from the innocence of this mask to convey sensuous, passionate, demented, or supernatural characteristics.

**LITERATURE
COMPARISON:**

Compare a ko-omote mask dated to the 18th century in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 1993.341.1.



Estimate EUR 800
Starting price EUR 400



204
**SHUZAN: A VERY FINE WOOD
MASK NETSUKE OF KINTARO**

By Shuzan, signed Shuzan 舟山
Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century

Finely carved as Kintaro, the face with a pronounced nose, two pierced eyes and a subtle smile below prominent cheeks, framed by delicately engraved hair. The reverse with a himotoshi bar signed SHUZAN. Superb, smooth polish.

HEIGHT 4.3 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear.

Provenance: Ex-collection Richard R. Silverman. Richard R. Silverman (1932-2019) was a renowned Asian art collector with one of the largest private collections of netsuke outside of Japan. He lived in Tokyo between 1964 and 1979 and began to collect netsuke there in 1968. Since the 1970s, he wrote and lectured about netsuke and was an Asian art consultant for Christie's,

Sotheby's, and Bonhams. His gift of 226 ceramic netsuke to the Toledo Museum of Art constitutes perhaps the largest public collection of these miniature clay sculptures in the world. After moving to California, Silverman became a member of the Far Eastern Art Council at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1984. In 1993, he joined LACMA's Executive Board. He served on the board of directors for the International Society of Appraisers from 1986 to 1994 and served nine years as chair for the City of West Hollywood Fine Arts Commission. Richard Silverman was posthumously awarded the Order of the Rising Sun for his decades-long promotion of Japanese culture.

Kintaro (English: Golden Boy) is a hero from Japanese folklore. According to legend, he was raised by a mountain witch and possessed supernatural strength. Kintaro is a popular figure in Bunraku and Kabuki dramas. In Japanese custom, Kintaro dolls are set out on Boy's Day in the hope that boys will become equally brave and strong.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



205
**KIGAI: A WOOD NETSUKE
 OF OKAME AT SETSUBUN**

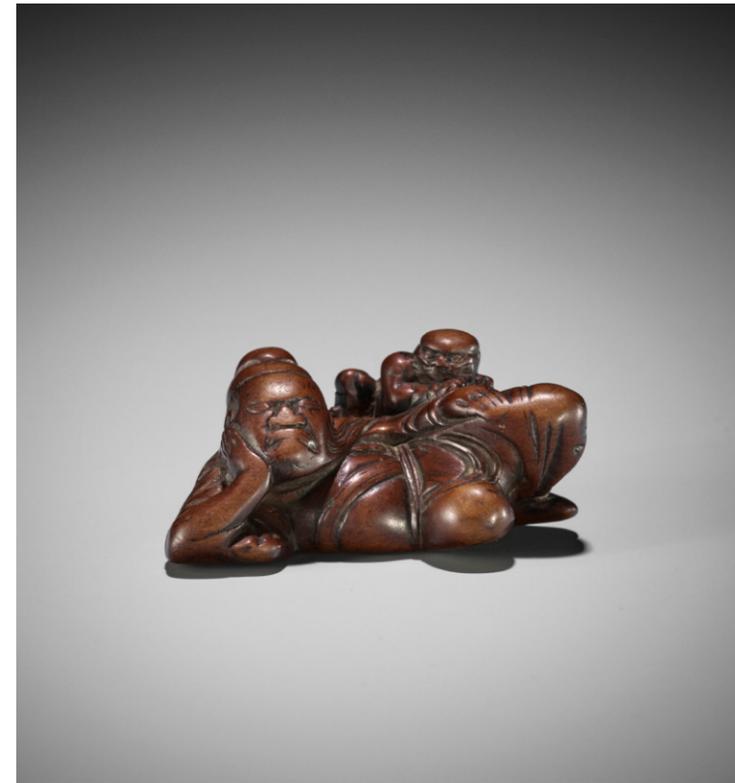
By Kigai, signed Kigai saku 鬼外作
 Japan, late 19th-early 20th century, Meiji period
 (1868-1912)

Finely carved as Okame seated in a wooden
 box carved to the exterior with a 'luck' sign,
 performing mamemaki (bean scattering), her
 face with a joyful expression, pointing at the
 desperate oni which is crawling under a large
 straw hat to hide from the beans. Ringed
 himotoshi underneath, signed KIGAI saku
 [made by Kigai].

LENGTH 3.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh,
 Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



207
**A RARE WOOD MITATE
 NETSUKE OF SHOKI AND ONI**

Unsigned
 Japan, late 18th century, Edo period
 (1615-1868)

An amusing parody of the classic sleeping
 sarumawashi model, though this time it is
 an oni sneaking up on the sleeping demon
 queller. Shoki is shown fast asleep, though
 still as grim as ever, leaning on his right
 hand. Well hollowed himotoshi through the
 base. Beautiful, dark patina.

LENGTH 5.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, appealingly
 worn with a fine patina.
Provenance: European collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related
 ivory mitate netsuke
 of shoki and oni, at
 Zacke, Fine Netsuke
 & Sagemono, 2
 November 2019,
 Vienna, lot 187 (sold
 for 2,022 EUR).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



206
**KOGYOKU: AN IVORY
 NETSUKE OF SHOKI AND ONI**

By Kogyoku, signed Kogyoku 光玉
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), late 19th century,
 Meiji period (1868-1912)

Depicting the legendary demon queller Shoki
 leaning over a decorative stool to search for the
 oni hiding below, Shoki dressed in an elaborate
 robe, holding a sword, his face with a grim
 expression and glaring eyes. Natural himotoshi
 through the stool and a small himotoshi
 underneath, signed KOGYOKU within an oval
 reserve.

HEIGHT 4.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh,
 Budapest, Hungary.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related wood
 netsuke of Shoki and oni
 by Kogyoku, 19th century,
 at Lempertz, Japan, India/
 South-East Asia, Tibet/Nepal,
 China I&II, 6 December 2019,
 Cologne, lot 143 (sold for
 1,984 EUR).



Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

208
**SEIUN: A RARE IVORY NETSUKE
 OF AN ONI AS SARUMAWASHI**

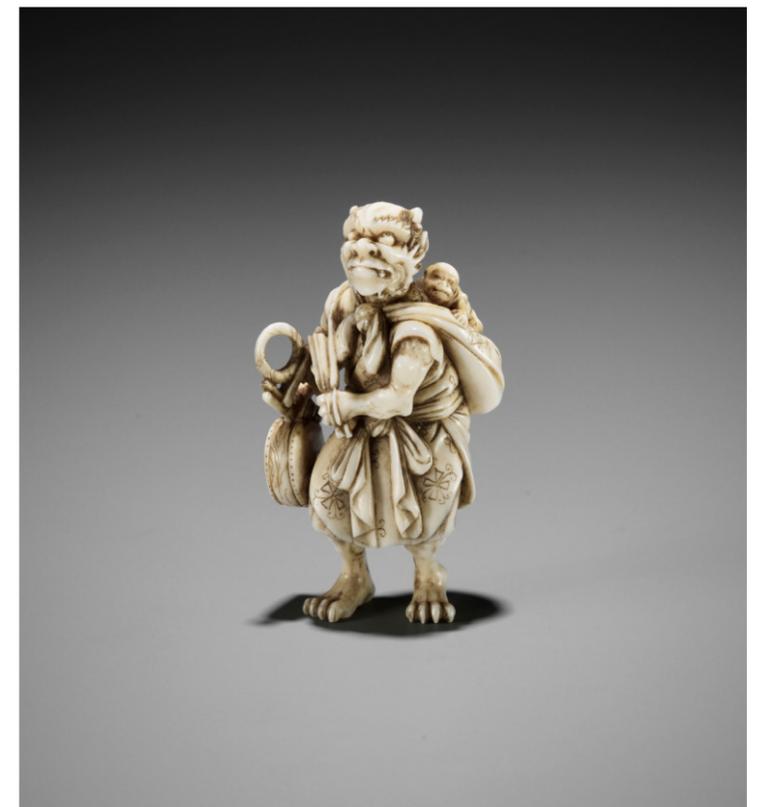
By Seiun, signed Seiun 晴雲
 Japan, Edo/Tokyo, mid to late 19th century

A humorous ivory netsuke of an oni posing
 as a monkey trainer, the face with a grim
 expression and up-turned eyes, dressed
 in an elaborately decorated robe, holding
 a drum and drumsticks, a staff with hoop
 attached to his robe, a small finely carved
 monkey glancing over his shoulder. Two
 asymmetrical himotoshi through the back,
 the signature finely incised at the pouch
 SEIUN.

HEIGHT 5.7 cm

Condition: Good condition, few small
 losses to the leash of the monkey, the staff
 reattached, few minor natural age cracks.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh,
 Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200





209
**A RARE IVORY NETSUKE OF
 AN ONI ON A KONGO (VAJRA)**

Unsigned
 Japan, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The mischievous little devil with amusing expression, climbing atop a four-pronged kongo (vajra), its spine, rib cage and muscular limbs neatly detailed. The lightly stained ivory bearing a fine patina. The underside with two oval himotoshi.

LENGTH 5.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear and few associated natural age cracks.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

The design is illustrated in the Soken Kisho of 1781, the first publication on netsuke and their carvers.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

For a closely related ivory netsuke by Jugyoku see Ducros, Alain (1994) Netsuke & Sagemono, no. 32.



A sketch taken from the Soken Kisho



210
**HIDEMASA: AN AMUSING IVORY
 NETSUKE OF SHOKI AND ONI**

By Hidemasa, signed Hidemasa 秀正
 Japan, Osaka, mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The demon queller standing with one leg on a large kasa hat and piercing his sword through the surface, the obligatory oni hiding underneath straining to escape the blade. Shoki's loosely fitted robe is finely stippled, embellished with various designs, and his long draping sleeves flow upwards dynamically. The individual expressions are achieved with humor, which is typical for the artist – Shoki looks determined, certain that he will have bested his foe, while the oni snarls mischievously. Natural himotoshi and signed underneath Shoki's foot HIDEMASA. The finely stained ivory bearing a good patina.

HEIGHT 4.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition, few expected age cracks and associated minor surface wear.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





211
**NANMUSAI: A RARE WOOD NETSUKE
 OF RAIJIN DISCHARGING A STORM**

By Nanmusai, signed Nanmusai 南無齋
 Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The thunder god kneeling over wispy clouds, wearing a large drum strapped to his back and surrounded by further finely carved clouds which he pulls out from a pouch-like bag, his square-jawed face is set in an expression of grim, somewhat doleful, determination. Natural himotoshi, the signature NANMUSAI within a raised oval reserve underneath.

HEIGHT 3.7 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear. Fine, smooth patina.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

The artist is rare, with only very few works recorded.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:
 Compare a near-identical ivory netsuke of Raiden by Nanmusai, illustrated in Coullery, Marie-Therese and Newstead, Martin S. (1977) The Baur Collection, p. 61, no. C 19.

MUSEUM COMPARISON:
 Compare a related wood netsuke of Raiden by Tomokazu, in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession number EA1956.1721.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



212
**JORYU: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE
 OF RAIJIN ENVELOPED IN CLOUDS**

By Joryu, signed Joryu 如柳
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), early 19th century, Edo Period (1615-1868)

Finely carved in openwork, running over wispy clouds, Raijin swings his beater over his shoulder as he prepares to strike his thunder drum. The thunder god's square-jawed face is set in an expression of grim, somewhat doleful, determination. He wears a loincloth, a hyotan issuing a swirl of clouds attached to his left arm, and his hair falls in curls at his neck. Signed underneath JORYU – a pupil of Jobun – on an oval reserve underneath, the himotoshi running through underneath it. The ivory bearing a deep-yellow patina.

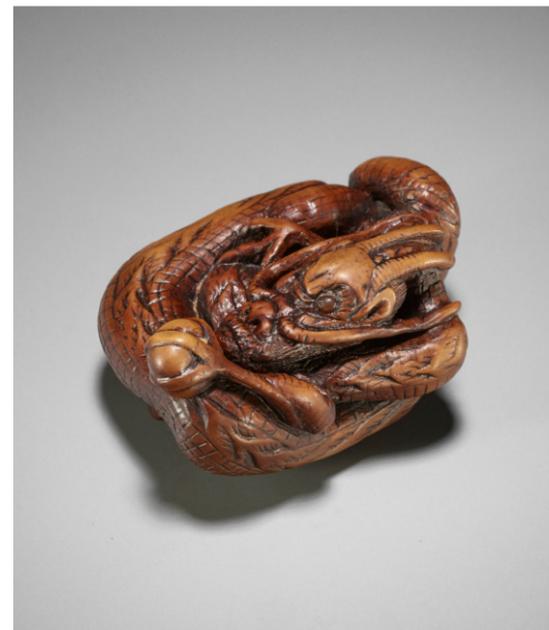
HEIGHT 3.9 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor expected surface wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Raijin, also known as Raiden or Kaminari Sama, is the Japanese thunder god. Usually, he is depicted in red color with the face of a demon, two claws on each foot, and carrying a drum or wheel of drums.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000





213
**A SUPERB WOOD NETSUKE
OF A COILED DRAGON**

Unsigned
Japan, probably Nagoya school, 18th century, Edo period
(1615-1868)

Boldly carved, forming a compact composition, the sinuous body decorated with scales, the whiskers upturned, one claw grasping a tama, the eyes inlaid with translucent horn. Natural himotoshi through the sinuous body.

LENGTH 5.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, appealingly worn. Fine, dark patina.
Provenance: European collection.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

Compare a related wood netsuke of the four shijin by Tametaka, 18th century, at Bonhams, The Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 62 (sold for 16,250 GBP).



Estimate EUR 6,000
Starting price EUR 3,000



214
**A FINE WOOD NETSUKE OF A WOLF
 WITH HAUNCH OF VENISON**

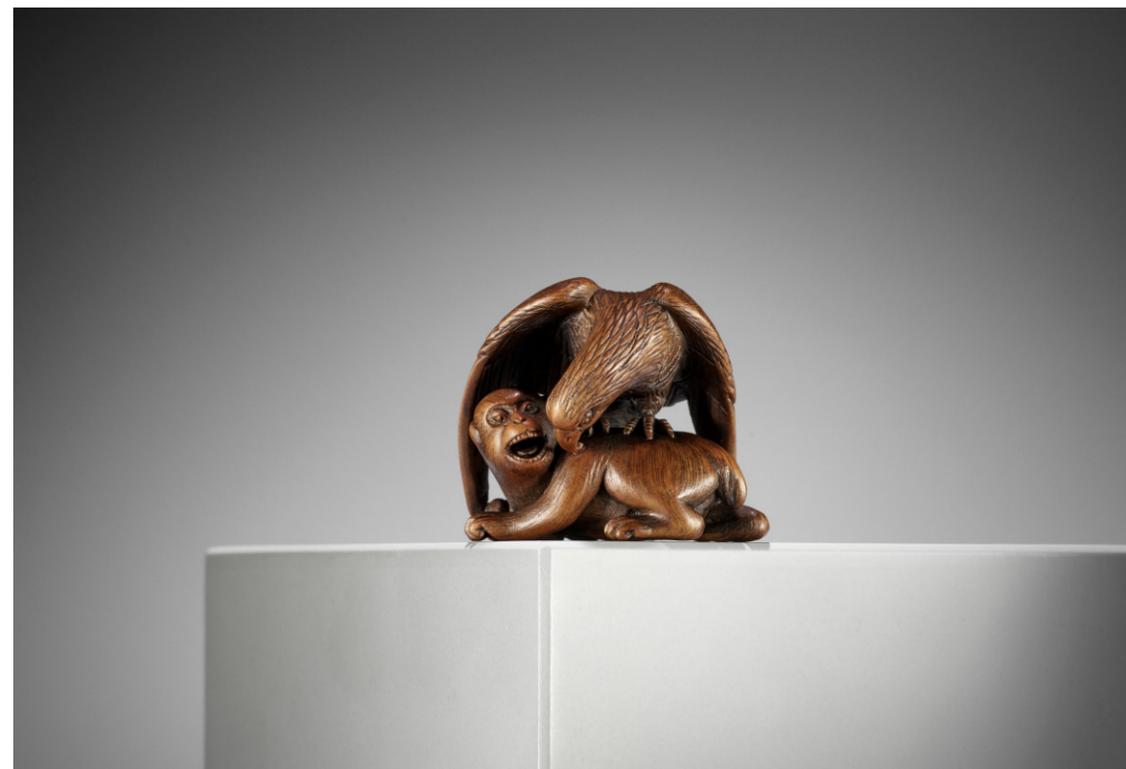
Unsigned
 Japan, probably Kyoto, late 18th to early 19th century, Edo period
 (1615-1868)

Finely carved as an emaciated wolf in the style of Masatomo, yet much finer, with neatly incised spine and fur, large, pricked ears, the eyes inlaid in mother of pearl with dark horn pupils, its mouth opened snarling, the tail tucked underneath, guarding a haunch of venison under its front paw. Natural himotoshi through the legs.

LENGTH 5.7 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor surface wear. Fine patina.
 Provenance: USA private collection.

Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



215
**KAIGYOKU: A FINE WOOD NETSUKE
 OF AN EAGLE SNATCHING A MONKEY**

After Kaigyokusai Masatsugu, signed Kaigyoku 懷玉
 Japan, Osaka, late 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The eagle with boldly incised feathers and plumage, its head lowered pressing down its talons against a squirming monkey. The monkey in return screeches, its mouth opened with a wild expression, grasping the feathers of the eagle to protect the young monkey hiding next to it. Himotoshi underneath, signed KAIGYOKU.

HEIGHT 3.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary, acquired from Michael Strone.

Literature comparison: Compare a related ivory netsuke of an eagle snatching a monkey by Kaigyoku Masatsugu, illustrated in Meinertzhagen, Frederick / Lazarnick, George (1986) MCI, Part A, p. 291.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare a related wood netsuke of a family of chickens by Kaigyokusai or Kaigyokudo, late 19th century, at Bonhams, The Julius and Arlette Katchen Collection of Fine Netsuke Part III, 6 November 2018, London, lot 90 (sold for 5,500 GBP).



Estimate EUR 4,000
 Starting price EUR 2,000



216
**ITSUMIN: A WOOD OKIMONO
 NETSUKE OF A TANUKI STIRRING MISO
 IN A MORTAR**

By Hokyudo Itsumin, signed Itsumin 逸民 to 刀
 Japan, Tokyo, second half of 19th century, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Seated in front of the suribachi (mortar) with deep conical sides, stirring thick miso paste with a large pestle held in both hands, wearing a loose-fitting robe with wide sleeves and a cloth wrapped around the head. The tanuki's bushy tail emerges from below. Natural himotoshi between the arms, pestle, and tail. Signed underneath ITSUMIN to [carved by Itsumin].

HEIGHT 4.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few natural age cracks.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



217
**ITTAN: A FINE NAGOYA SCHOOL WOOD
 NETSUKE OF AN ONI WITH MORTAR AND SKULL**

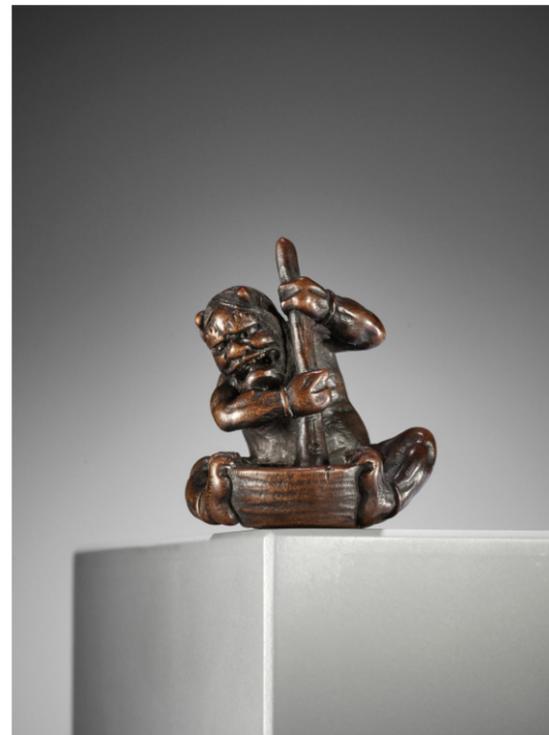
By Ittan, signed Ittan 一坦 with kakihan
 Japan, Nagoya, first half of 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The oni seated, dressed in a tiger skin loincloth, holding a mortar with his feet while grinding a human skull and bones with a long pestle. The face with a strenuous expression, the mouth agape, his eyes inlaid in dark horn. Natural himotoshi through the legs and arms, signed underneath within a raised oval reserve ITTAN with kakihan.

HEIGHT 3.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, one inlay to the left eye missing.
Provenance: From the collection of Mike and Hiroko Dean, acquired at Sotheby's, London, 14 November 2000, lot 150.

Neil Davey wrote on Ittan, "A fine artist, who worked entirely in wood, producing small models, chiefly of animals but occasionally of legendary figural subjects. His work is full of intricate details, the eyes being inlaid in dark horn and the himotoshi being formed by a natural gap in the form." (Netsuke, 1974, p. 194).



AUCTION COMPARISON:
 Compare to a closely related wood netsuke of a fox stirring miso, by Ittan, sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 12 May 2009, London, lot 138 (sold for 1,560 GBP).

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



218
**ITSUMIN: A FINE WOOD NETSUKE OF
 A REPENTING ONI WITH MOKUGYO**

By Hokyudo Itsumin, signed Itsumin 逸民 to 刀
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The repenting oni seated, dressed in a tiger skin loin cloth and wearing a headdress, drumming with a mallet on the mokugyo laying in front of him, his face with a grim expression, the open mouth revealing a set of sharp fangs, and the bulging eyes inlaid in pale translucent horn with dark pupils. Note the superbly carved underside of the mokugyo which also houses the signature ITSUMIN to [carved by Itsumin]. Natural himotoshi, the well-toned wood bearing a fine, warm patina.

HEIGHT 4.7 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, one finger with a tiny chip to the edge.

Provenance: North German private collection, assembled before 1984.

LITERATURE COMPARISON:

Compare a closely related wood netsuke of an oni beating a mokugyo by Itsumin, illustrated in Meinertzhagen, Frederick / Lazarnick, George (1986) MCI, Part A, p. 247.



Auction comparison: A related wood okimono of monkeys, by Hokyudo Itsumin, was sold at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 10 November 2011, London, lot 121 (sold for 5,000 GBP).

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000

219
**SHURAKU: A FINE WOOD NETSUKE
 OF A MONK WITH MOKUGYO**

By Shuraku, signed Shuraku 舟樂 with kakihan
 Japan, Edo, first half of 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

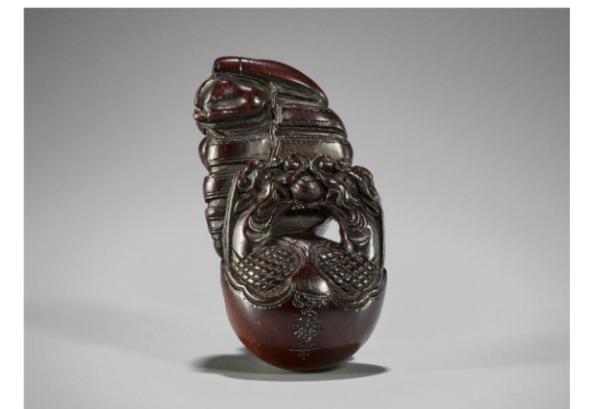


Finely carved and with detailed incision work, depicting a monk leaning on a mokugyo (temple bell), the bell with handles formed as confronting dragons sharing a tama in their mouths and superbly hollowed, the monk holding a drumstick, his face with a serene expression. Natural himotoshi through the mokugyo handle, signed SHURAKU with kakihan.

LENGTH 4.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



220
GYOKUSUI: A FINE TOKYO SCHOOL IVORY AND WOOD NETSUKE OF A PRIEST RESTING ON A MOKUGYO

By Gyokusui, signed Gyokusui 玉翠
 Japan, Tokyo, late 19th century,
 Meiji period (1868-1912)

The priest leaning on a mokugyo, his left and right hand placed on his knee, wearing a loose-fitting monastic robe finely incised and inlaid with chrysanthemums and medallions above a very delicate ground of scrolls. The mokugyo carved from wood with inlays of green-stained antler and pale horn. Two asymmetrical and well-hollowed himotoshi through the base, signed GYOKUSUI upon a red-lacquered plaque underneath the mokugyo.

HEIGHT 3.2 cm, LENGTH 4.6 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few natural age cracks.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



222
MUNETAME: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE OF A MAN DRINKING SAKE

By Munetame, signed Munetame with kakihan
 Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)



HEIGHT 3.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition. Minor wear.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800



221
KOKOKU: AN IVORY NETSUKE OF OKAME WITH MIRROR

By Kokoku, signed Kokoku 光谷
 Japan, Tokyo, late 19th century,
 Meiji period (1868-1912)

Okame seated with her legs tucked under her body, a mirror in her right hand, her robe and eboshi inlaid with dark buffalo horn, patinated metal, mother-of-pearl, red lacquer, and finely incised and painted in sumi-e with scrolls and foliate designs. The mirror inlaid in mother-of-pearl, which cleverly reflects light on Okame's face. Two asymmetrical himotoshi underneath and signed KOKOKU on a red-lacquered plaque.

HEIGHT 4.5 cm

Condition: Good condition, minor wear, the frame of the mirror with a repair.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

The present artist belonged to the Tokoku school and along with Egawa Sokoku excelled in the use of various different materials.

Estimate EUR 2,500
 Starting price EUR 1,200

223
SHIZU: A FINE TOKYO SCHOOL IVORY NETSUKE OF HOTEI

By Shizu, signed Shizu (Sei)
 Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)



HEIGHT 3.3 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear, some natural nerve channel plugs.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800





224
**YASUAKI: A FINE TOKYO SCHOOL
 IVORY NETSUKE OF HOTEI**

By Yasuaki (Homei), signed Yasuaki 保明 with seal Kodama 見玉
 Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The lucky god seated, laughing jovially, his loosely fitted robe
 revealing his hairy chest and bulging stomach, the green-stained
 robe neatly incised with cloud patterns and embellished with
 various inlays, an inlaid wood reishi scepter fitted into his belt at the
 back. Signed underneath YASUAKI with gilt metal seal Kodama next
 to the two himotoshi which are ringed in dark horn.

HEIGHT 2.9 cm, LENGTH 3.4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

A closely related ivory netsuke of a seated
 Hotei by Yasuaki was sold at Lempertz,
 Netsuke and Sagemono incl. The
 Kolodotschko Collection V, 9 June 2017,
 Cologne, lot 622 (sold for 2,728 EUR).



Estimate EUR 2,000
 Starting price EUR 1,000



225
**YASUAKI: A FINE AND LARGE
 TOKYO SCHOOL IVORY NETSUKE OF HOTEI**

By Yasuaki (Homei), signed Yasuaki 保明 with seal Kodama 見玉
 Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)

A larger than usual model of Hotei laughing jovially, his loosely fitted
 robe revealing his right shoulder, hairy chest, bulging stomach, as
 well as a green-stained cord tied into the fold of his belly, the pink-
 stained robe neatly incised with swirling patterns and embellished
 with various inlays depicting kamon, an inlaid tortoiseshell reishi
 scepter fitted into his mother-of-pearl belt at the back. The eyes are
 minutely inlaid in dark horn. Signed underneath YASUAKI with seal
 Kodama next to the two ringed himotoshi.

HEIGHT 3.6 cm, LENGTH 4.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

AUCTION COMPARISON:

A closely related ivory netsuke of a seated
 Hotei by Yasuaki was sold at Lempertz,
 The Kolodotschko Collection of Netsuke II,
 6 December 2014, Cologne, lot 972 (sold
 for 3,720 EUR).



Estimate EUR 3,000
 Starting price EUR 1,500



226

A LARGE WOOD NETSUKE OF A MOKUGYO, ATTRIBUTED TO GYOKUMIN

Attributed to Gyokumin, unsigned
Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa district, late 19th century

Finely carved as a mokugyo (gong) the handles shaped as two confronting dragonfish heads sharing a tama (magical jewel) in their opened mouths, the scales and curling manes finely incised. The wood is superbly polished and the mokugyo makes an appropriate sound when struck. One side is carved with a neatly incised lotus medallion in the center, with two bonji characters in sunken relief against a circular reserve on either side. Natural himotoshi through the underside of the bell, however likely this was either an okimono or simply a miniature mokugyo.

HEIGHT 6.8 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with only very minor wear.
Provenance: European collection.

Literature comparison:

Compare to a related netsuke of a mokugyo with the same bonji character, saku, in Kokusai the Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan' vol. III, Sydney L. Moss, Ltd., 2016, no. 352.

Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000



227

KOKUSAI: A SUPERB STAG ANTLER OJIME OF A MOKUGYO

By Ozaki Kokusai (1835-1892), sealed
Koku 谷
Japan, Shiba, Tokyo, c. 1860-1880

The ojime finely carved as a mokugyo (temple bell) formed as a dragon fish catching a tama in his mouth and tail, its curling mane and scales neatly incised. The bell decorated with two medallions enclosing lotus flowers and issuing vines. A round seal KOKU in sunken relief to one side.

HEIGHT 2.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few natural age cracks.

Provenance: European collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



228

GYOKKO: A FINE IVORY OJIME OF THE SHICHIFUKUJIN

By Gyokko, signed Gyokko 玉光
Japan, Tokyo, 19th century

Of globular form, finely carved with the seven lucky gods floating above swirling clouds, their robes finely incised. The top with a metal collar in the form of a flower head, the bottom with a gilt rim. Signed in a raised, rectangular reserve GYOKKO.

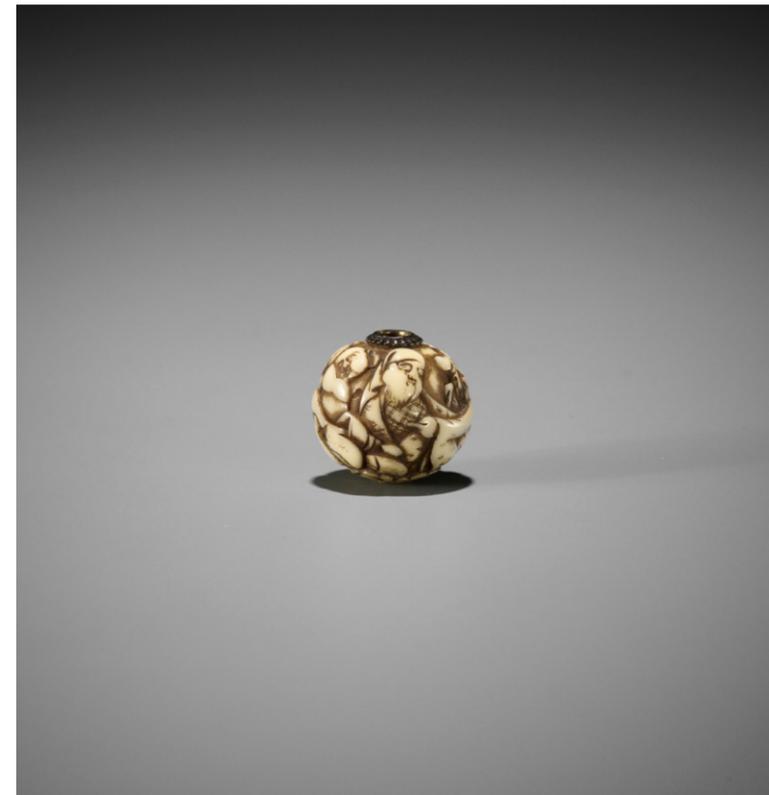
HEIGHT 1.9 cm

Condition: Very good condition, appealingly worn. Fine patina.

Provenance: German private collection.

In Japanese mythology, the Seven Lucky Gods or Seven Gods of Fortune (shichifukujin) are believed to grant good luck and are often represented in netsuke and in other artworks.

Estimate EUR 1,000
Starting price EUR 500





229
**RANTEI: A RARE AND FINE
 IVORY NETSUKE OF
 A CHRYSANTHEMUM**

By Hogen Rantei, signed Rantei 蘭亭
 Japan, Kyoto, late 18th to early
 19th century, Edo period
 (1615-1868)

Of domed form, finely carved as a
 blossoming chrysanthemum, the
 reverse with furled stem issuing leaves
 bearing simulated worm rot. Well-
 integrated himotoshi through the stem
 and foliage, signed to the stem RANTEI
 within the typical oval reserve.

LENGTH 4.2 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor
 wear. Fine honey-yellow patina.
 Provenance: German private collection.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800

230
**KOGYOKU: A LARGE
 IVORY MANJU NETSUKE
 WITH PEONIES**

By Kogyoku, signed Kogyoku 光玉
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century,
 Edo period (1615-1868)

The large manju of circular form, well
 carved in relief featuring a blossoming
 peony flower and bud on a rock, likely
 an allusion to a shishi, the reverse with
 two himotoshi and signed KOGYOKU.

DIAMETER 5.9 cm

Condition: Good condition, light surface
 scratches, natural age cracks, later
 incisions to the back. Fine honey-yellow
 patina.

Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh,
 Budapest, Hungary.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



231
**HOGYOKU: AN IVORY MANJU NETSUKE
 OF A NOH ACTOR AS HANNYA**

By Ikkesai Hogyoku, signed Ikkesai Hogyoku 一鷄齋 法玉
 with kakihan
 Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)



The two-part manju of circular form, well carved in shishiaibori
 (sunken relief) to one side depicting an actor in the role of Hannya,
 standing in a dynamic pose, the arms spread outwards, wearing
 formal attire, the head turned to the right and with flowing hair,
 details in red and black sumi, the reverse incised and inked with
 two peonies and signed HOGYOKU IKKEISAI with kakihan.

DIAMETER 4.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, few minuscule nibbles
 to the rims, few light surface scratches. Fine honey-yellow patina.
Provenance: Collection Gabor Orszagh, Budapest, Hungary.

Literature comparison: Compare a related ivory manju
 netsuke depicting Tadamori by Ikkesai Hogyoku, illustrated in
 Meinertzhagen, Frederick / Lazarnick, George (1986) MCI, Part
 A, p. 164.

Estimate EUR 1,000
 Starting price EUR 500



232
**YUKIMASA: AN IVORY NETSUKE
 OF AN AMA WITH OCTOPUS**

By Yukimasa, signed Yukimasa 幸正
 Japan, early 20th century

In the shape of a hamaguri clam, carved in the front in shishiaibori
 (sunken relief) with inked details depicting an ama (diving girl),
 bare-chested, pushing away an amorous octopus with its tentacles
 wriggling underneath her skirt. Her expression is quite ambiguous;
 although she is grabbing the octopus by its mouth and fighting
 off his approach, she seems to be enticed by its presence. Good
 himotoshi through the reverse and signed YUKIMASA. The ivory is
 lightly stained and finely polished.

LENGTH 4.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, fine age cracks.
Provenance: German private collection, acquired in Japan c. 1980.

Estimate EUR 1,500
 Starting price EUR 800





233
MICHAEL BIRCH: BEAR REFLECTED ON ICE

By Michael Henry Birch (1926-2008), signed with artist's initials 'MHB'
England, 2003

Published: Birch, JKL (2013) The Art & Life of Michael Birch, p. 112.

Carved from hippopotamus incisor, the eyes inlaid in black onyx. Depicting a stylized bear slipping on ice, its reflection visible beneath. Signed within a gold-inlaid tablet MHB. A remarkably clever and amusing composition.

LENGTH 6.1 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.
Provenance: From the collection of Jonathan Birch, son of Michael Henry Birch.

Estimate EUR 2,000
Starting price EUR 1,000



234
MICHAEL BIRCH: PORTRAIT OF MY FATHER

By Michael Henry Birch (1926-2008), signed with artist's initials 'MHB'
England, 1994

Published: Birch, JKL (2013) The Art & Life of Michael Birch, p. 41.
Exhibited & Illustrated: The Carvings of Michael Henry Birch, N.K.C. New York, 1995. Michael Birch Netsuke Carver and Sculptor, National College of Art & Design, Dublin 1997. Tactiles by Michael Henry Birch, I.N.S.C Boston, 2001.

The head of elongated pear shape, carved from hippopotamus incisor, the features finely detailed in an exaggerated manner with an aquiline nose, and smiling eyes below arched brows. The head inset in a wood stand of lobed form. Small himotoshi through the back and the signature 'MHB' within a gold-inlaid rectangular reserve.

HEIGHT 9.2 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with natural veining and age cracks.
Provenance: From the collection of Jonathan Birch, son of Michael Henry Birch.

AUCTION COMPARISON:
Compare a related netsuke of a samurai mask by Michael Birch, at Zacke, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 16 April 2021, Vienna, lot 251 (sold for 1,138 EUR).



Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800



235
MICHAEL BIRCH: THE MAGIC WHIRLPOOL WITH YIN-YANG SYMBOL

By Michael Henry Birch (1926-2008), signed with artist's initials 'MHB'
England, 2000

Published: Birch, JKL (2013) The Art & Life of Michael Birch, p. 139.
Exhibited & Illustrated: Netsuke Sculptures by Michael Henry Birch, I.N.S.C. Honolulu, 2004.

Carved from hippopotamus incisor following the organic shape of the material, one side with a wave-like ridge forming a yin-yang symbol at the center, the reverse left uncarved. Small himotoshi to one side, signed 'MHB' within a gold-inlaid rectangular reserve.

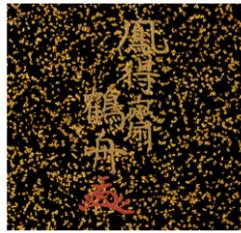
Janet Birch remarked the following: "When carving the [...] pieces from the thin hollow end of the incisor, Michael left the crystal-hard enamel un-carved on the underside of each to denote the ripples on a sandy seabed beneath the waves".

LENGTH 8.4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.
Provenance: From the collection of Jonathan Birch, son of Michael Henry Birch.

Estimate EUR 1,500
Starting price EUR 800

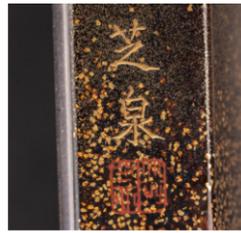
ARTIST SIGNATURES



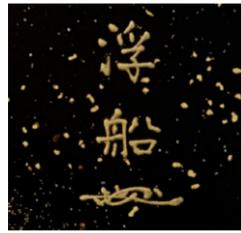
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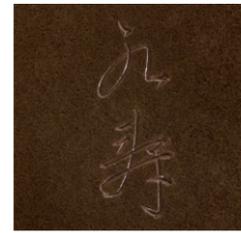
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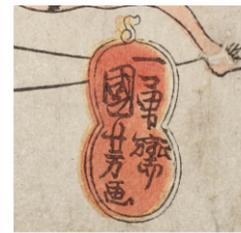
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No. 78



No. 79



No. 121



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No. 132



No. 133



No. 134

ARTIST SIGNATURES



No. 135



No. 137



No. 139



No. 141



No. 142



No. 173



No. 174



No. 176



No. 177



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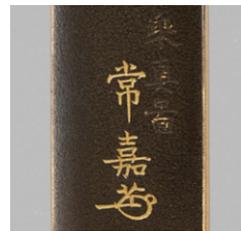
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No. 218



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No. 221

ARTIST SIGNATURES



No. 222



No. 223



No. 224



No. 225



No. 227



No. 228



No. 229



No. 230



No. 231



No. 232



No. 233



No. 234



No. 235

TERMS OF AUCTION

§ 11 The auction shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the rules of procedure of GALERIE ZACKE ©, SZA VERSTEIGERUNGEN UND VERTRIEBS GMBH, Sterngasse 13, 1010 WIEN (hereinafter referred to as the company) as well as in accordance with sections 244-246 of the GEWERBEORDNUNG [Industrial Code] of 1994. The auction shall be carried out on commission. The auctioneer shall be entitled to withdraw lots exceptionally, to conduct the auction deviating from the order of the catalog numbers and to offer lots jointly. In the event of any dispute concerning a double bid or if the auctioneer has missed a bid, the auctioneer shall be entitled to revoke acceptance of a bid and to continue auctioning the item. The figures stated in the catalog shall be the highest bid in Euro (€) expected by the respective expert. As a rule, the bid shall be increased by 10% of the last bid. (See table of the bidding increments).

§ 2 The acceptance of a bid shall be granted to the highest bidder unless a hidden reserve has been agreed upon with the consignor of the item in question. Such a hidden reserve (also called limit or just reserve) shall be the minimum price under which the item will not be sold during the auction. This reserve will be disclosed upon request and after the auction only and may exceed the estimate. The auctioneer will in this case bid on behalf of the seller against all other bidders until the reserve has been reached. If a reserve is not reached during the auction, the auctioneer will knock down the item to the highest bidder at the final bid, but the sale will be conditional of the acceptance of this final bid by the seller. In this case the highest bidder shall be bound to his/her last bid for a term of 8 days starting with the day of the knockdown. If the winning bidder does not receive a written cancellation notice within this term of 8 days, the knockdown becomes unconditional and the sale is final. Typically, only a minority of all items in an auction have a hidden reserve.

§ 3 Most items shall be subject to differential taxation. A uniform surcharge of 25% plus the value added tax applicable to the surcharge to the amount of 20% shall be added to the achieved highest bid (final and highest bid). Thus, the surcharge shall be 30% of the final and highest bid in total. Items with added VAT are marked † in the online catalog.

§ 4 In the event of sales abroad, the value added tax will be repaid if the item is sold to a country which is not a member country of the European Union (third country), the legal requirements are met, and the proof of exportation is provided. The value added tax shall not be shown separately on the invoice.

§ 5 The auction buyer must pay the purchase price immediately upon acceptance of the bid (final and highest bid plus 25% surcharge, plus the value added tax applicable to the surcharge to the amount of 20%, or the added VAT on top of the final price, when a lot is highlighted accordingly in the auction catalog). The company may grant an auction buyer a term of payment for the purchase price in whole or in part when this has been formally applied for in writing before the auction.

§ 6 In the event of a term of payment, or any payment delay, in whole or in part, the company shall be entitled to charge default interest (12% p.a.) as well as storage charges (2.4% of the final and highest bid per month commenced) after 14 days upon acceptance of the bid. The item purchased at auction shall be handed over exclusively upon full payment of the purchase price including all costs and charges accrued since the acceptance of the bid.

§ 7 The buyer should take acquired items into possession, as far as possible, immediately or after the end of the auction. Items which have been fully paid for shall be handed over in our show rooms in GALERIE ZACKE, Sterngasse 13, 1010 VIENNA. If a deferred purchase price is not paid within the set period, the company shall be entitled to auction the item again in order to recoup its claim from the defaulting auction buyer. In this case, the defaulting auction buyer shall be liable to the company for the total loss of commission incurred by the company due to the re-auctioning as well as for any default interest and storage charges.

§ 8 The company shall be entitled to a lien on all items of the buyer irrespective of whether the buyer bought them within the scope of an auction or in free sale or the company secured ownership of these items otherwise. This lien shall serve to secure all current and future, qualified, limited and unmatured claims to which the company is entitled and which result from all legal transactions concluded with the buyer.

§ 9 The items received for auction will be exhibited and may be viewed prior to the auction. In doing so, the company shall give everyone the opportunity to check the nature and the condition of the exhibited items to the extent deemed possible within the scope of the exhibition. Every bidder shall be deemed to act on its own behalf unless it provides a written confirmation saying that it acts as a representative or agent of a well-known principal. The company may refuse bids; this shall particularly apply if a bidder who is unknown to the company or with whom the company has no business connections yet does not provide a security deposit before the auction. However, in principle there shall be no claim to accept a bid. If a bid has been refused, the previous bid shall remain effective.

§ 10 The company's experts evaluate and describe the items received for auction and determine the starting prices unless otherwise stated in the catalog or expert opinion. The information concerning production technique or material, state of preservation, origin, design and age of an item is based on published or otherwise generally accessible (scientific) findings concluded by the company's expert with the necessary care and accuracy. The company shall warrant to the buyer according to § 34-38 of the AGB (Terms and Conditions) that properties are correct provided that any complaints referring to this are made within 45 days after the auction day. Subsequent complaints shall be excluded in principle. The company shall not be liable for any further information in the catalog and expert opinion as well. This shall also apply to illustrations in the catalog. The purpose of these illustrations is to guide the potential buyer during the preview. They shall not be authoritative for the condition or the characteristics of the pictured item. The published condition reports shall only mention defects and damage affecting the artistic or commercial value significantly. Complaints concerning the price shall be excluded upon acceptance of the bid. The company reserves the right to amend the catalog online prior to the auction. These amendments shall also be made public orally by the auctioneer during the auction. In this case, the company shall be liable for the amendment only. All items offered may be checked prior to the auction. These items are used. Any claims for damages exceeding the liability named above and resulting from other material defects or other defects of the item shall be excluded. When making the bid, the bidder confirms that he/she has inspected the item prior to the auction and has made sure that the item corresponds to the description.

§ 11 If a customer is not able to participate in an auction personally, the company shall accept purchase orders. These orders may be placed in writing via mail, e-mail, fax, www.zacke.at or a third party bidding platform. In the case of a purchase order placed by phone or orally, the company shall reserve the right to make the performance dependent on a confirmation from the principal communicated in writing. Furthermore, the company shall not be liable for the performance of purchase orders. Equal purchase orders or live bids will be considered in the order of their receipt. Bids which below the estimate shall be exhausted completely. Bids which do not correspond to the increments determined by the company (see bidding increment table) will be rounded up to the next higher increment. The table of these increments can be sent upon request. The written bid (purchase order) must include the item, the catalog number and the offered top bid limit which is quoted as the amount of the acceptance of the bid without buyer's commission and without taxes.

Ambiguities shall be carried by the bidder. A purchase order which has already been placed may only be cancelled if the written withdrawal is received by the company at least 72 hours prior to the beginning of the auction.

§ 12 The company may refuse a purchase order without explanation or make its execution dependent on payment of a security deposit. In the event of an unsuccessful order, such a deposit will be reimbursed by the company within 5 working days. Processing of purchase orders is free of charge.

§ 13 Every seller shall in principle be entitled to withdraw the items offered for auction until the start of the auction. Therefore, it is impossible to assume liability or to give warranty for the actual offering.

§ 14 Paid items must be collected within 30 days after payment. Items which have not been collected may be re-offered without further communication at the starting price from the recent auction reduced by 50%. Items which have not been collected within 30 days after the auction or for which the company does not receive any proper shipping instructions stating the type of shipping and the address of dispatch (independent of a possibly placed purchase order) shall be stored at the owner's risk.

Furthermore, the company shall be entitled to store items which have been purchased at auction and paid but not collected at the buyer's risk and expense, including the costs for an insurance, with a forwarding agency. It shall be understood that the provision concerning the re-auctioning of unpaid and paid but not collected items must also apply to items not exhibited or stored on the premises of the company. The ownership shall be transferred to the buyer at the time of handing over the issuing note.

§ 15 In the case of mixed lots with a starting price of less than EUR 350.00, the company shall not warrant for the completeness or correctness of the individual items within a mixed lot.

§ 16 A registration for a bid by telephone for one or several items shall automatically represent a bid at the estimate price of these items. If the company cannot reach a bidder by telephone, it will bid on behalf of this bidder up to the estimate price when the respective lot is up for auction.

§ 17 Payments made to the company by mistake (through the payer's fault) (e. g. due to miscalculation of the exchange rate by the payer) or payments made to the company for the same invoice several times shall be compensated in form of a credit note for goods for an indefinite period of time. The repayment of such payments in cash shall be excluded.

§ 18 Certain auction lots may exist several times (multiples). In such a case, the auctioneer may accept a second, third or even more bids from the underbidder(s). In this case, the text in the catalog and not the illustration shall be exclusively binding with regard to the warranty.

§ 19 The company reserves the right to assign to the buyer all rights and obligations resulting from the contractual relationship between the company and the seller by way of a respective declaration, as well as to assign to the seller all rights and obligations resulting from the contractual relationship between the company and the buyer by way of a respective declaration, in each case in terms of a complete assignment of contract with the result that the contractual relationship - following the submission of the aforementioned declarations by the company - shall exclusively be between the seller and the buyer, all of which is in accordance with the basic model of the commission agreement. Buyers and sellers shall already now give their explicit consent to this contract assignment.

§ 20 The place of performance of the contract brought about between the company on the one hand and the seller as well as the buyer on the other hand shall be the place of business of the company. The legal relationships and contracts existing between the company, the sellers and the buyers shall be subject to Austrian law. The company, the sellers and the buyers shall agree to settle all disputes resulting from, concerning and in connection with this contract before the territorially competent court of Vienna.

§ 21 The export of certain art objects from Austria shall require a permit from the Bundesdenkmalamt [Federal Monuments Office]. The company will orally provide information about art objects for which such export permit will probably not be granted at the beginning of the auction.

§ 22 Whenever making a bid, whether personally or via an agent, in writing, online, telephone, or in any other way, the bidder fully and unconditionally accepts the Terms of Auction, the 'Important Information' section in the auction catalog, the Terms and Conditions (AGB) of Galerie Zacke, §1-50, the Fee Tariff, and the Bidding Increments table, all as published on www.zacke.at on the day of the auction.

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