



## Fine Japanese Art (JAP0621)

Fri, 4th Jun 2021

### Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 25 May to 4 June, 2021. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the preview will be open from 10 AM to 1 PM. FFP2 masks are required.

### Lot 135

**Starting price:** €2500

**Estimate:** €5000

### ✚ AN EXCEPTIONAL IVORY TUSK JAR AND COVER

By Hobun and Doko carved under supervision of Hakusei (a disciple of Hakumin), signed Hakumin monjin, Hakusei zo kore, Hobun horu kore, Doko horu kore  
Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)

The ivory tusk jar intricately carved, featuring two lobed and stippled reserves on each side, carved in low relief on one side with an eagle on a pine tree surrounded by reishi-shaped clouds, the other side showing the famous scene of Kanshin crawling through the legs of two brigands. The man and boy flailing their arms and the seated hound are an unusual addition to the scene. The jar has two handles in the shape of a rain dragon, the cloud-like structure resembling the body and the top minutely carved with the face and curling snout. The mouth is very finely carved with further dragons, scrolling clouds, and foliate designs. The entire composition is set on a wood base which features further intricate designs and stands on four feet in the shape of stylized beast mask handles. The lid is carved with an extraordinarily fine finial in the shape of another rain dragon guarding a jar.

Signed underneath within a square reserve:

伯珉門人 “Hakumin monjin”  
伯晷造之 “Hakusei zo kore”  
輔文彫之 “Hobun horu kore”  
同幸彫之 “Doko horu kore”

[Carved by Hobun and Doko, made under the supervision of Hakusei, a disciple of Hakumin]

HEIGHT 14.5 cm, LENGTH 13.8 cm

Condition: Superb condition.

Provenance: Dutch private collection.

### Auction comparison:

Hobun, Doko, Hakusei, and Hakumin were all respected members of the Tokyo school of ivory carvers. For a tusk vase by the same workshop, signed Hakumin, see Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 13 May 2008, London, lot 239 (**sold for 4,200 GBP**).