



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

Lot 68

Starting price: €1250

Estimate: €2500

Υ DORAKU: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE OF JO WITH CRANE

By Doraku, signed Doraku 道乐

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

Finely carved and stained deep-yellow as Jo, from the legend of the twin pines, resting on one knee and holding a hoe. A minutely carved crane bends over next to him, the neck twisted, putting its beak underneath Jo's left hand. The details finely rendered, and the robe incised with scrolling designs. Good, asymmetrical himotoshi through the back and signed underneath in the typical wavy reserve DORAKU.

HEIGHT 3.8 cm

Condition: The inked details slightly worn, a tiny chip to the robe near the signature. Overall good condition, amazingly the feet of the crane have stayed intact.

Provenance: The Gabor Wilhelm Collection, Paris.

Jo is usually depicted with his wife Uba underneath pine trees with auspicious animals such as a minogame or cranes. Jo and Uba were thought to inhabit two pines at Takasago and Sumiyoshi. According to tradition, Jo makes a trip to Sumiyoshi nightly to visit his love. The two spirits symbolize the pines for which these locations are famous; in addition, they also represent eternal fidelity. They are also the protagonists of the Noh-play Takasago, which is considered a very auspicious story.