



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

### Lot 64

**Starting price:** €4000

**Estimate:** €8000

#### A SUPERB WOOD NETSUKE OF SHOKI WITH ONI

In the manner of Tsuji, unsigned  
Japan, Osaka, c. 1800, Edo period (1615-1868)

Masterfully carved with irresistible character and charm, depicting the demon queller Shoki with his straw hat slung over his shoulder behind his back, tied together to trap a little one-horned oni. Shoki is stroking his beard and rather amusingly contemplating what to do with the little devil – one can only wonder what he is thinking (...shall I roast him, fry him, cook him?). Unbeknownst to him the oni has already torn a hole through his trap, pressing his arms together and smiling, ready to escape at any time, however still staying put to taunt his captor. The details are very finely carved and the wood is of a stunning color, bearing a beautiful, lustrous patina. 'Chimney himotoshi' through the side and between Shoki's legs.

HEIGHT 6.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with only very minor surface wear, some tiny nicks to the edges around the straw hat.

**Provenance:** The Gabor Wilhelm Collection, Paris.

#### Literature comparison:

A similar netsuke of Shoki and oni, attributed to the circle of Tsuji, was offered by Neil Holton.