



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

### Lot 99

**Starting price:** €4000

**Estimate:** €8000

### ‡ A RARE IVORY SHUNGA NETSUKE OF AN AMA WITH AMOROUS OCTOPUS

Unsigned

Japan, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

**Published:** Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Köln (2017)  
Netsuke & Sagemono, pp. 124-125, no. 209.

The unlikely couple seated side by side, the diving girl pulling at the octopus's soft fleshy head, one tentacle in her hand, while the octopus presses its funnel-shaped mouth forward. The arms of the cephalopod are wriggling around the bare-chested ama, one of them pleasuring her underneath. The basket behind the diving girl shows her catch of the day – the soft shell of an awabi is visible (yet another erotic allusion). The ivory finely stained and bearing a good patina. The details well-carved. Himotoshi through the tentacles underneath.

LENGTH 4.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear and age cracks.

**Provenance:** Ex-collection Teddy Hahn, Darmstadt.