



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

Lot 54

Starting price: €750

Estimate: €1500

Y OKATOMO: AN IVORY NETSUKE OF TWO PUPPIES WITH AWABI

By Yamaguchi Okatomo, signed Okatomo 岡友
Japan, Kyoto, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Well carved as two puppies seated side by side, one with dark fur playing with an awabi shell, a cord attached to the shell in its mouth, the other puppy with striped fur and barking with the mouth wide open revealing sharp teeth. The puppies' eyes are inlaid with dark horn and their fur is finely incised, the shell is neatly stippled, and the composition is dynamic and lively. Several natural himotoshi between the puppies' limbs and bodies. The underside with the signature OKATOMO within a rectangular reserve. Both the puppy and awabi are symbols of fertility.

LENGTH 3.6 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

Provenance: Ex-collection Conte Don Enrico Lucchesi Palli, 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.

Literature comparison:

A closely related ivory netsuke by Okatomo of two puppies with two awabi shells is illustrated in the INCS journal, vol. 5, no. 1, p. 35, and another is illustrated in Galerie Gemini & Ichimonji Art (2004), p. 23, no. 63.