



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

Lot 134

Starting price: €12500

Estimate: €25000

Υ OTOMAN: A SUPERB IVORY NETSUKE OF A TIGER

By Matsushita Otoman, signed Otoman (Otomitsu) 音満
Japan, Hakata, c. 1840, Edo period (1615-1868)

Carved in a dynamic posture, the tail curling up over its back, and facing to the left. The well-carved paws huddled close together for compactness are pressing forcefully against the ground. The tiger snarls, baring its sharp canines and tongue, the bulbous eyes are double inlays of pale and dark horn, the pupils facing in different directions give the tiger its idiosyncratic crazed expression. The inside of the mouth is colored with red pigment. The netsuke is well worn with most of the inked stripes rubbed away, though it retains a pleasing stain. Natural himotoshi and signed on the tiger's back in two boldly carved characters OTOMAN.

HEIGHT 3.2 cm

Condition: Good condition, the ivory and inked details heavily worn. Age cracks.

Provenance: German private collection.

Literature comparison:

Compare to a related ivory netsuke of a tiger by Otoman in the British Museum, accession no. HG.700.

Auction comparison:

Compare to a related ivory netsuke of a tiger by Otoman sold at Bonhams, The Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 129 (**sold for 34,850 GBP**).