



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

Lot 87

Starting price: €1250

Estimate: €2500

† SHIGEMASA: A FINE WOOD NETSUKE OF A PUMPKIN WITH TWO SNAKES

By Shigemasa, signed Shigemasa 重正
Japan, Nagoya, mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A dynamic composition depicting two snakes emerging from and winding around a pumpkin, the scaly bodies visible underneath the flesh of the pumpkin in various places, both snakes with their heads placed on top, one snarling with a flickering tongue and the other with its mouth closed. The details finely carved and the wood stained in various colors and utilizing various textures – a carving style this artist is known for. Natural himotoshi through one of the tails underneath and signed within a rectangular reserve SHIGEMASA.

LENGTH 4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor surface wear.

Provenance: British collection.

Literature comparison:

An almost identical wood netsuke of two snakes and pumpkin by Shigemasa is illustrated in Lazarnick, George (1981) *Netsuke & Inro Artists, and How to Read Their Signatures*, vol. 2, p. 947.

Auction comparison:

A similar wood netsuke by Shigemasa of a snake with pumpkin and snail was sold at Bonhams, *Fine Netsuke from a French Private Collection*, 4 November 2020, London, lot 65 (sold for 2,295 GBP).