



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0422)

Fri, 22nd Apr 2022

### Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 19 April to 22 April 2022. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the viewing will be open until 1 PM CET.

### Lot 238

**Starting price:** €2000

**Estimate:** €4000

### **KYOKUSEI: A FINE INLAID EBONY WOOD NETSUKE OF A CORAL DIVER**

By Kyokusei, signed Kyokusei □□

Japan, Edo/Tokyo, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

A fine and amusingly crafted netsuke depicting a foreign islander. The finely polished ebony wood is embellished with various materials - the islander holds a large bright-red coral branch slung over his back and attached to a gilt metal rope, which he holds in his right hand. A tabako-ire set worked in semi-precious stones is attached to his loincloth, which like his eyes and teeth, are inlaid in bone. The underside neatly decorated with geometrical bands and waves. Signed within a green-stained tablet next to the two irregularly shaped himotoshi – KYOKUSEI □□.

The artist was known for his idiosyncratic depictions of islanders. Similar examples also exist by Jugyoku, Minkoku and Shibayama Soichi.

LENGTH 4.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear.

Provenance: US private collection.

### Literature comparison:

For a very similar netsuke by Kyokusei see Coullery, Marie-Therese and Newstead, Martin S. (1977) *The Baur Collection*, pp. 184-185, no. C 446. For another similar netsuke see Davey, Neil K. (1974) *Netsuke: A comprehensive study based on the M.T. Hindson Collection*, p. 171, no. 511.

### Auction comparison:

For a similar netsuke of a standing islander by Kyokusei, see Zacke, *Fine Netsuke & Sagemono*, 27 March 2020, Vienna, lot 139 (**sold for 4,044 EUR**).