



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 209

Starting price: €5000

Estimate: €10000

‡ IKKOSAI: A MASTERFUL MARINE IVORY NETSUKE OF MARINE LIFE

By Ikkosai (Toun), signed Ikkosai □□□

Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

An intricately carved study comprising approximately thirty aquatic animals including various fish, an eel, spiny lobsters, a crab, a squid, an octopus, and a flounder, all with inlaid eyes of metal or horn. The entire carving is executed in splendid sukashi-bori (openwork), some of the individual specimens hidden away in the deepest crevices of the composition. The marine ivory has a lustrous yellow shine and is finely stained. Natural himotoshi and neatly incised signature IKKOSAI on a raised oval reserve underneath.

LENGTH 4.6 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, some very fine natural age cracks.

Provenance: Ex-collection Teddy Hahn and Ex-collection Carré. Previously sold at Klefisch Cologne, 12th October 2014, lot 829 (**sold for 10,500 EUR**).

For a discussion of the artist see the International Netsuke Society Journal (INSJ), vol. 39, no. 3, Fall 2019, pp. 20-28. The intricate carving and use of sukashi-bori exhibited in this netsuke are perhaps only equalled by Gyokuhosai Ryuchin.

Literature comparison:

A very similar ivory netsuke signed Toun, formerly in the Behrens collection (no. 1775), is in the British Museum accession no. 1945,1017.523.