



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 251

Starting price: €2000

Estimate: €4000

A SUPERB TALL STAG ANTLER NETSUKE OF A SAGE WITH CRANE

Unsigned

Japan, Kyoto, 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely carved as a Taoist sage stroking his long beard with a fierce expression, his free hand lowered to meet the beak of a crane which raises one foot and its head obediently. The sage is cloaked in a voluminous robe with long draping sleeves, decorated with a regularly spaced 'punctured pattern'. The surface bearing a gorgeous, lustrous patina turning caramel-brown in some areas. At first glance, it appears as if carved from ivory, except for the telling plugs at the bottom and top. Large, functional himotoshi through the back.

HEIGHT 8.6 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear, superb patina.

Provenance: The Gabor Wilhelm Collection, Paris.

This work can be attributed to one of the early Kyoto masters, who apparently never signed their stag antler pieces.

Literature comparison:

Compare to a stag antler netsuke of a Chinese man, attributed to one of the early Kyoto masters, in Moss, Sydney L. (2016) *Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan*, vol. I, p. 35, fig. 20.

Auction comparison:

Compare to a related ivory netsuke of a Chinese sage with crane, sold at Bonhams, *Fine Japanese Art*, 13 May 2008, London, lot 365 (**sold for 3,240 GBP**).