



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 225

Starting price: €1200

Estimate: €2500

𠄎 CHOKUSAI: AN EXCEPTIONALLY RARE MARINE IVORY NETSUKE OF BAREKISONJIN

By Miyagi Chokusai (born 1877), signed Chokusai □□
Japan, Tokyo, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Published: Sagemonoya (2011) Netsuke Opus 20, p. 70-71, no. 55 (the signature erroneously transcribed as Tokusai).

The six-armed warrior deity on horseback atop a shaped base carved as swirling clouds, he is fully clad in neatly incised armor and wearing a fierce lion mask with long mane elegantly falling over his back, his face with a grim expression, his two principal hands holding on to the reins, one hand holding a sparrow, another a small monkey, the other two hands holding crossed swords above his head in front of the flaming mandorla, the underside pierced with two himotoshi flanking the oblong plaque incised with the signature TOKUSAI.

HEIGHT 6.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear, expected age cracks, natural imperfections to the material, loss to one inlaid eye of the horse.

Provenance: The Gabor Wilhelm Collection, Paris.

The design of this netsuke is based on a print by Katsushika Hokusai from the Hokusai Manga (sketches) series published in 15 volumes. The first volume of the series was intended as a drawing instruction manual but Hokusai almost immediately removed the text and republished the drawings alone. The series took Hokusai on an encyclopedic venture, from seemingly insignificant depictions of everyday objects to spirits and historical figures. The design shows Barekisonjin, a horse-riding warrior god travelling on a horse through the clouds.

The subject appears to be unique in netsuke art.

Auction comparison:

Another netsuke by the artist was sold at Zacke, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 16 April 2021, Vienna, lot 233 (**sold for 5,056 EUR**).

