



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 165

Starting price: €800

Estimate: €1500

GYOKUTEI: A WOOD SHUNGA NETSUKE OF MAN ON HAMAGURI CLAM

By Gyokutei, signed Gyokutei □□

Japan, Edo (Tokyo), first half of 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A characterful netsuke depicting a hapless male caught by his fundoshi (loincloth) within the lips of a clam, the Japanese archetypal symbol of the female sex. The man's emaciated body is well-carved, evidently he has been caught for some time, and the agonized expression is treated with humor. Natural himotoshi and signature written in sosho (cursive script) GYOKUTEI underneath. The artist was a pupil of Gyokusai, who is credited as the originator of this humorous netsuke parody of the seduction of feminine wiles.

HEIGHT 4.1 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor wear, fine patina.

Provenance: French private collection, purchased at Galerie Yamato, Paris, in 1998.

Auction comparison:

A closely related netsuke by Gyokusai was sold at Zacke, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 29 October 2021, Vienna, lot 102 (sold for 1,643 EUR).