



## 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 172

**Starting price:** €2400

**Estimate:** €5000

### ¥ HOJITSU: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE OF AN INUBARIKO WITH SHUNGA INTERIOR

By Meikeisai Hojitsu, signed Hojitsu □□ with kakihan  
Japan, Edo (Tokyo), 19<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Well carved in the form of an inubariko, a dog-shaped box – a symbol of fertility – and popular bridal gift, used for the storage of towels and accessories for intimate care. The dog is coyly smiling, seemingly knowing what is hidden within. The netsuke opens to reveal a minutely carved lady pleasuring herself with a harikata (artificial phallus). A little mechanism enables her hand to move back and forth. The exterior finely incised with shaped reserves enclosing various paintings. Himotoshi to the side and underside. Signed to one of the fan-shaped reserves to the exterior HOJITSU with a kakihan.

LENGTH 3.7 cm, HEIGHT 3.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with surface wear, minor age cracks, traces of use, the interior with remnants of pigment.

**Provenance:** French private collection, acquired from Galerie Yamato, Paris, in 2005.

### Literature comparison:

Compare a closely related netsuke by Hojitsu at Sotheby's, The Cornelius V.S. Roosevelt Collection of Netsuke, 2 June 1992, New York, lot 257, and another illustrated in Severin, Mark F. (1976) Inubariko, INCS Journal Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 19, fig. 9.

### Auction comparison:

Compare a related netsuke, unsigned, dated second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, at Zacke, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 29 October 2021, Vienna, lot 98 (sold for 4,298 EUR).

**Trade Certificate: The trade certificate for the sale of this lot within the EU has been granted (permit number AT 22-B-0281).**