



## 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 263

Starting price: €2000

Estimate: €4000

### A SUPERB STAG ANTLER RYUSA MANJU NETSUKE OF A MOKUGYO, ATTRIBUTED TO TOKOKU

Attributed to Suzuki Tokoku (1846-1913), signed with a kakihan

Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa District, second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century

The ryusa manju netsuke consisting of two separately carved parts, the front very finely carved with a double dragon-headed mokugyo sharing a tama in their mouths, the curling manes and scales neatly incised, the reverse with a central floral himotoshi framed by openworked petals. The interior with a nyoi-scepter forming the cord attachment above a kakihan (artist's monogram).

LENGTH 3.8 cm

Condition: Excellent condition.

Provenance: Dutch private collection.

**Suzuki Tokoku (1846-1913)** is regarded as one of the finest netsuke carvers, distinguished by masterful use of inlay. His earlier works are in the Asakusa style of manju or ryusa type and often using fine metal inlays. It seems plausible his art name Tokoku □□ is derived from Kokusai □□, and although Tokoku was apparently self-taught, he must have worked with Kokusai at some point in his life.

### Literature comparison:

A similar example by Tokoku, the signature hidden within, is in Sydney L. Moss Ltd. (2016) *Kokusai the Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan*, vol. III, pp. 182-183, no. 183.