



## 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 162

**Starting price:** €4000

**Estimate:** €8000

### CHIKUSAI: A SUPERB INLAID WOOD SHUNGA NETSUKE OF BENTEN AND OCTOPUS

By Chikusai, signed Chikusai □□

Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

**Published:** Joly, H. L. (1913) Catalogue of the H. Seymour Trower Collection of Japanese Art, no. 561 (unillustrated).

Superbly carved as the goddess Benten seated next to an octopus, the unlikely couple caressing one another. The octopus has bulging eyes beautifully inlaid in pale and dark horn, one of its tentacles is placed on its head in an amusing gesture, unsure as to whether he should advance or not. All details are superbly carved. Benten's head, hands, and feet are inlaid in finely stained bone, a section of her thigh is inlaid as well. Her collar, obi (belt), and the oval signature plaque reading CHIKUSAI are inlaid in bekko. Natural himotoshi.

HEIGHT 4 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear.

**Provenance:** Ex-collection H. Seymour Trower.