



## 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 255

**Starting price:** €2000

**Estimate:** €4000

### A SUPERB STAG ANTLER NETSUKE OF A CROUCHING TOAD

Unsigned

Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa District, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

An ingenious carving which excels in both its simplicity and superior use of material, carved from the coronet of the antler, the natural protrusions of this section found near the base being ideal for the warty skin of the toad. The material is largely unchanged, only the webbed feet underneath and some smaller details are carved. The eyes are double-inlaid in pale reddish horn with dark pupils and follow the viewer when the netsuke is slightly turned. Large, asymmetrical himotoshi underneath.

LENGTH 3.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with 'natural flaws' to the material.

Provenance: Canadian private collection.

While one would usually imagine the subject to be envisioned before the material is chosen, we believe this is a case where the material allowed nothing other than for this toad to be born.