



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 65

Starting price: €7500

Estimate: €15000

✚ A SUPERB IVORY NETSUKE OF A SHISHI AND BALL

Unsigned

Japan, Osaka, ca. 1780-1800, Edo period (1615-1868)

Published:

Sydney L. Moss Ltd. (1993) *Zodiac Beasts and Distant Cousins*, no. 13.

Sydney L. Moss Ltd. (2006) *More Things in Heaven and Earth*, p. 66, no. 25.

The lean and indubitably male beast sits upright on its haunches with both front paws flailing around its head, one catching two locks of its finely incised mane in apparent irritation. The ribs are well rendered, and the vertebrae of the spine are neatly articulated. On the naturalistically carved base stands an openwork cage containing a loose ball. One himotoshi to the base, the other between the base and bushy tail.

HEIGHT 4.4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with some wear, minor age cracks, few minuscule nicks. Fine, cream-colored patina.

Provenance: Sydney L. Moss Ltd., London, *Zodiac Beasts and Distant Cousins*, 1993, no. 13. Stolen from Sydney L. Moss Ltd. at the time of the aforementioned exhibition and found 18 months later with a South London fence (a reseller of stolen goods). Sydney L. Moss Ltd., London, *More Things in Heaven and Earth*, 2006, no. 25. A notable private collection, acquired from the above.

Literature comparison:

Compare a related ivory netsuke of a shishi climbing a dead tree, with similar expression and features, also unsigned, illustrated in Hurtig, Bernard (1973) *Masterpieces of Netsuke Art: One Thousand Favorites of Leading Collectors*, p. 156, no. 642. Two closely related netsuke from the June Schuerch collection are illustrated in Sydney L. Moss Ltd. (2006) *More Things in Heaven and Earth*, p. 66, no. 25 (the catalog entry for the present lot).

Trade Certificate: The trade certificate for the sale of this lot within the EU has been granted (permit number AT 22-B-0249).