



## 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 274

**Starting price:** €2000

**Estimate:** €4000

### ¥ HOSHUNSAI MASAYUKI: A FINE IVORY NETSUKE OF A BOY WITH HOZUKI

By Hoshunsai Masayuki, signed Masayuki □□  
Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa District, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

### Published:

Virginia / Davey, Neil (2006) *The Virginia Atchley Collection of Japanese Miniature Arts*, p. 202, IN15.

Moss, Sydney L. (2016) *Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan*, vol. III, pp. 118-119, no. 405.

Finely carved, the ivory stained and polished, depicting a seated boy wearing a loosely-fitted monk's robe, and opening a giant hozuki (winter cherry) from its translucent and semi-transparent veined, papery skin to reveal the full glory of the fruit inside. The fruit is inlaid in bright red coral, the contrast between the ivory and coral producing a striking effect. The underside with large himotoshi, the smaller one hidden away in a fold of the robe and signed in running script MASAYUKI.

HEIGHT 3.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition, minor wear.

**Provenance:** Ex-collection Virginia Atchley.

Hozuki proliferate during the Summer Hozuki-ichi fair held on the grounds of the Senso-ji temple in Asakusa, Tokyo. The fair is associated with Atago Gongen who is believed to be the local avatar of the bodhisattva Jizo, a revered deity and protector of children.

**Trade Certificate:** The trade certificate for the sale of this lot within the EU has been granted (permit number AT 22-B-0247).