



## 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 272

**Starting price:** €1200

**Estimate:** €2500

### ‡ A FINE IVORY MANJU NETSUKE WITH BAKU, ATTRIBUTED TO RENSAI

Attributed to Ishikawa Rensai or a close follower or associate, unsigned

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

**Published:** Moss, Sydney L. (2016) *Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan*, vol. III, pp. 28-29, no. 341.

The solid ivory manju of sixteen-petaled kiku (chrysanthemum) shape, very finely carved in highly polished shishiaibori (sunken relief) to the center with a reclining dragon-horned baku facing backwards with an amusingly stern expression, the creature set against a finely incised hanabishi (lit. flower diamonds) ground. The finely stained verso with two himotoshi.

LENGTH 4.3 cm

Condition: Very good condition, minor imperfection near the baku's horn (also visible in the back).

**Provenance:** Ex-collection Jury Kolodotschko, sold at Lempertz, Cologne, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015, lot 1207.

**Baku** are Japanese supernatural beings that are said to devour nightmares. According to legend, they were made from the spare pieces that were left after the gods had finished creating all other animals. Baku heads are commonly placed under the eaves of Japanese Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines to ward off bad spirits. They are protectors against evil, devour nightmares, but cannot be summoned without caution, because - as legend tells - if the baku is not satisfied after consuming the nightmares, it may devour one's hopes and dreams too.

**Trade Certificate:** The trade certificate for the sale of

**this lot within the EU has been granted (permit number  
AT 22-B-0252).**