



## 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 163

**Starting price:** €4000

**Estimate:** €8000

### HIDEHARU: A SUPERB WOOD NETSUKE DEPICTING A MERMAID CAUGHT IN A GIANT HAMAGURI

By Hideharu, signed Hideharu □□  
Japan, Nagoya, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Published:** Hurtig, Bernard (1973) Masterpieces of Netsuke Art: One Thousand Favorites of Leading Collectors, p. 150, no. 604.

Masterfully carved, the mermaid with finely incised hair falling elegantly over her back, her eyes double-inlaid in translucent and dark horn. One of her fins has been caught in the huge hamaguri clam below her, and she is attempting to free herself. The contrasting textures of the clam shell, the mermaid's scaly body, and her fins are all superbly executed. The underside with two asymmetrical himotoshi flanking the signature HIDEHARU within a recessed reserve.

LENGTH 4.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear.

**Provenance:** Ex-collection Martin S. Newstead. Ex-collection Teddy Hahn, Darmstadt.

The mermaid (ningyo) caught in a giant hamaguri is one of Hideharu's most popular designs, **the present netsuke being certainly the finest example of the group.**

### Literature comparison:

Compare a closely related wood netsuke depicting the same subject by Hideharu, illustrated in Eskenazi (1993) Japanese Netsuke from the Carré Collection, p. 99, no. 101. Compare a related wood netsuke depicting the same subject by Hideharu, illustrated in Barry Davies Oriental Art (1996) Netsuke Through Three Centuries, p. 129, no. 146.

### Auction comparison:

Compare a related wood netsuke depicting a kappa caught in a hamaguri by Hideharu at Bonhams, Japanese Works of Art, 19 March 2009, New York, lot 409 (**sold for 3,965 USD**).

