



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 233

Starting price: €1000

Estimate: €2000

Ÿ ONO RYOMIN: AN IVORY MANJU NETSUKE DEPICTING BOYS AND TOYS

By Ono Ryomin, signed Ryomin □□ with kakihan
Japan, Edo (Tokyo), mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Of circular form, the two-part manju finely carved in shishiaibori with two boys, one seated and beating a drum, the other dancing while holding a rattle and wearing a kitsune (fox mask), their robes neatly incised with diapered designs, and to the reverse with a group of children's toys including a duck and fishing rod, further with the central himotoshi and the signature RYOMIN with a kakihan.

DIAMETER 4.5 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear.

According to Neil Davey, Ono Ryomin was a "fine maker of sukashi netsuke and manju, invariably of ivory. He was the founder of a fairly large school, most of whom took the name Ono. The signature is clearly written in kaisho, without reserve." See Davey, Neil K. (1974) *Netsuke: A comprehensive study based on the M.T. Hindson Collection*, p. 314. Ono Ryomin was particularly fond of carving netsuke of boys, however manju netsuke with such depictions appear to be rare.

Literature comparison:

Compare a related kagamibuta netsuke by Ono Ryomin depicting a boy beating a drum, illustrated in Dieuwke Eijer (1994) *Kagamibuta, Mirrors of Japanese Life and Legend*, Leiden and Geneva, p. 26, no. 18.

Auction comparison:

Compare another ivory two-part manju netsuke by Ono Ryomin, 4.2 cm diameter, at Bonhams, *Fine Japanese Art*, 7 November 2013, London, lot 18 (**sold for 4,750 GBP**; part lot, together with an ivory manju netsuke by Hojitsu).

Trade Certificate: The trade certificate for the sale of this lot within the EU has been granted (permit number AT 22-B-0231).