



## Fine Japanese Art (JAP1020)

28th October 2020

### Lot 188

**Starting price:** €5000

**Estimate:** €10000

#### **SUKEYUKI: A MASTERFUL WOOD OKIMONO OF A SNAKE AND SKULL**

By Sukeyuki, signed Sukeyuki zo  
Japan, Hida province, Takayama, 19th century

A morbidly fascinating composition of a large snake coiling around a skull. The snake with precisely carved scales and a naturalistically carved body varying in thickness is coiling around the anatomically precise skull. The skull has been evidently lying around for some time as a few teeth are missing and the back of the cranium is opened, the snake slithers through this hole, penetrating the eye socket and resting its head on top, the eyes double-inlaid in mother-of-pearl and dark horn, and the tongue extended. The surface of the skull is masterfully stippled to resemble the heterogeneous structure of the cranium. Signed within a rectangular reserve SUKEYUKI zo [made by Sukeyuki].

HEIGHT 12 cm, LENGTH 12.5 cm

Condition: Two old restorations to the snake's body.

Otherwise excellent condition.

Provenance: British collection.

#### **Auction comparison:**

Compare to a similar okimono by Sukeyuki, sold by Christie's, Art of Japan, 8 December 2016, London, lot 20 (**sold for 11,875 GBP**).

Compare the manner of the snake to a netsuke by Sukeyuki's master Matsuda Sukenaga, sold by Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 9 November 2017, London, lot 5 (**sold for 13,750 GBP**).