



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 105

Starting price: €1500

Estimate: €3000

KOKEI: A FINE WOOD NETSUKE OF A SHISHI

By Kokei, signed Kokei 虎溪

Japan, Kuwana, Ise province, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A very finely carved and compactly crafted study of a Buddhist lion seated, scratching its ear with one hind paw, its two front paws decisively placed afore with a somewhat grim yet satisfied expression, the curly mane is masterfully carved, and the bushy tail trails underneath its body. 'Natural' himotoshi through one of the curls underneath and signed KOKEI within a polished reserve.

LENGTH 3.6 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor associated surface wear. Beautiful patina.

Provenance: Old Viennese private collection assembled within the same family over three generations.

Auction comparison: Compare to two very similar wood netsuke by Tomin and Minko, the former at Bonhams, Fine Japanese Art, 6 November 2012, London, lot 192 (**sold for 4,000 GBP, re-sold more recently at Zacke for 5,688 EUR**), and the latter at Bonhams, The Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 25 (**sold for 3,125 GBP**).