



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 119

Starting price: €4000

Estimate: €8000

TOYOKAZU: A SUPERB WOOD NETSUKE OF GAMA SENNIN

By Shugasai Toyokazu, signed Toyokazu 豊一
Japan, Sasayama, Tanba province, mid-19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A masterfully executed study of Gama Sennin shouldering a large warty toad, looking up and almost screaming in agony from the weight of the large amphibian. The toad's eyes are inlaid in dark horn and the sennin's eyes are inlaid in pale horn with drilled black pupils. Note the fine details to the sennin's leaf cloak and skirt, as well as the folds of the robe. The wood is accentuated with black coloring in the crevices for effect, very typical for the Tanba school artists. The chimney-like himotoshi are found in the back and underside, the larger one is generously excavated to accommodate the knot. Signed underneath in typical and boldly incised characters – TOYOKAZU.

HEIGHT 5.7 cm

Condition: Excellent condition. Associated surface wear, some miniscule nicks to the surface here and there.
Provenance: French private collection.

Shugasai Toyokazu is widely regarded as the most accomplished pupil of Naito Toyomasa (1773-1856).

Auction comparison:

Compare to a similar wood netsuke of Gama Sennin by Toyomasa sold at Christie's, A Private Collection of Japanese Art, 6-20 October 2015, New York, lot 55 (**sold for 18,750 USD**). Also compare to another related wood netsuke sold at Bonhams, The Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 84 (**sold for 21,250 GBP**).

Literature comparison:

A very similar netsuke of Gama sennin by Toyokazu is published in Barry Davies Oriental Art (1998) The Robert S. Huthart Collection of Non-Iwami Netsuke, pp. 158-159, no. 116.