



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 66

Starting price: €1250

Estimate: €2500

Υ KOGYOKU: AN OSAKA SCHOOL IVORY NETSUKE OF A LUNAR HARE POUNDING MOCHI

By Kogyoku, signed Kogyoku 光玉
Japan, Osaka, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Depicting a lunar hare or moon rabbit diligently pounding mochi inside a mortar. The mythical animal is wearing jacked and a hachimaki (headband), the large eyes inlaid in dark horn. The ivory finely stained and attractively worn. Himotoshi through the back and signed within a wavy reserve on the mortar KOGYOKU – possibly corresponding to Anrakusai, who used the go Kogyoku according to Ueda Reikichi.

HEIGHT 4 cm

Condition: Very good condition with some wear to incised and inked details.

Provenance: Belgian private collection, acquired at Kyoto Gallery, Brussels, September 1987.

This popular motif originates in China, where the rabbit is often portrayed as a companion of the Moon goddess Chang'e, constantly pounding the elixir of life for her. In the Japanese variation, the lunar hare is often seen pounding mochi, as in the present netsuke.