



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 58

Starting price: €1000

Estimate: €2000

¥ A POWERFUL IVORY NETSUKE OF A DRAGON, ATTRIBUTED TO MITSUHARU

Attributed to Mitsuharu, unsigned

Japan, Kyoto, late 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Displaying all the signature traits of Mitsuharu and depicting a two-horned coiled dragon on an upturned alms bowl with dense clouds carved on the surface in high relief. The dragon has inlaid eyes of dark horn, an upturned snout as it ferociously snarls, and typically carved flames emanating from its body. The underside is generously excavated so that the netsuke could also be used as an ashtray. Natural himotoshi.

LENGTH 3.3 cm

Condition: Very good, undamaged condition with some natural age cracks and fine, yellowish patina.

Provenance: Ex-collection Jury Kolodotschko.

Literature comparison:

There does not appear to be any netsuke of dragons which are in fact signed Mitsuharu, however a number can be confidently attributed to the artist. See for example two dragons in International Netsuke Society Journal (Spring 2019) Vol. 39, no.1, p. 20, nos. 25-26.