



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

### Lot 124

**Starting price:** €3500

**Estimate:** €7000

#### A SUPERB AND LARGE NAGOYA SCHOOL WOOD NETSUKE OF TWO FIGHTING SHISHI, ATTRIBUTED TO TAMETAKA

Attributed to Tametaka, unsigned

Japan, Nagoya, late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

**Published:** Hurtig, Bernard (1973) Masterpieces of Netsuke Art: One Thousand Favorites of Leading Collectors, p. 51, no. 134.

Eskenazi Ltd. (1993) Japanese Netsuke from the Carré Collection, pp. 128-129, no.149.

Eskenazi Ltd. (1997) Japanese Netsuke, Intro and Ojime from the Dawson Collection, pp.34-35, no. 47.

A considerably large wood netsuke with excellent provenance. Two shishi are engaged in a ferocious battle, forming a dynamic, powerful, and compact composition. The Buddhist lion on top is pinning his combatant to the ground and biting into his shoulder, the underdog screeching from pain with a grotesquely wide-opened mouth. The paws are finely carved, and the tails form powerfully bulging bundles with bushy ends. The wood of a very appealing color with a rich and unctuous patina. Large himotoshi underneath.

LENGTH 5.6 cm

Condition: Very good condition with associated surface wear.

**Provenance:** Ex-collection Jacques H. Carré, then collection Dawson.

The netsuke is reminiscent of a double tomoe, the animal with the closed mouth representing the female principle in (Chinese: yin) and the open mouth the male principle yo (Chinese: yang). Furthermore, Buddhist lions (komainu) are often depicted as temple guardians, one with a closed mouth uttering the syllable 'un' and the other with an opened mouth, uttering the syllable 'a'.

#### Auction comparison:

A related netsuke by Tametaka was recently sold at Bonhams, Fine Netsuke from a French Private Collection, 4 November 2020, London, lot 144 (**sold for 18,812 GBP**).