



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 39

Starting price: €5000

Estimate: €10000

Y YOSHINAGA: A LARGE AND EXCEPTIONAL IVORY NETSUKE OF A RECLINING SARUMAWASHI WITH MONKEY

By Yoshinaga, signed Yoshinaga 吉長
Japan, Kyoto, late 18th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

A larger than usual model, sprawling on the ground and leaning on one elbow, with his monkey seated on his sack. His kimono is incised with a typical check pattern, his surcoat with characteristic chrysanthemums, the jacket of his monkey with clouds. The underside is particularly attractive, with very delicately carved feet, distinctive of the master. The trainer's eyes are inlaid in dark horn. Two asymmetrical himotoshi to the underside, the larger one generously excavated, signed YOSHINAGA within an oval reserve to the underside of the sack.

LENGTH 7.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor surface wear, natural age cracks.

Provenance: Nio Gallery, England (advertised in the INCS Journal, vol. 24, no. 2 (2004), p. 23), then in private Japanese and UK collections.

Literature comparison:

A related ivory netsuke by the same carver is illustrated with a line drawing in Meinertzhagen / Lazarnick (1986) MCI, Part B, p. 990. The quality and size best compares to a similar netsuke by Yoshinaga in Sydney Moss Ltd. (1993) Zodiac Beasts and Distant Cousins: Japanese Netsuke for Connoisseurs, no. 10.