



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

### Lot 68

**Starting price:** €4000

**Estimate:** €8000

#### Y GARAKU: A SUPERB IVORY NETSUKE OF A FISHERGIRL WITH GIANT AWABI

By Risuke Garaku, signed Garaku 我樂  
Japan, Osaka, late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

**Published:** Katchen, Arlette (2010) Netsuke 7, Vol. 1, pp. 184-185, no. K690.

A superbly carved ivory netsuke of a fisher girl or ama, naked but for a skirt, leaning on a gigantic awabi shell, a small hook in her right hand. She is visibly pleased with her find, laughing and fondling the shell. The awabi is carved naturalistically, showing the typical openings and finely incised lines stained with sumi-e (ink). The underside shows a deep yellow-orange and lustrous patina, as well as the ear-shaped structure which give the awabi the nickname "ear shell". One himotoshi underneath the fisher girl and the other larger one next to the signature within an irregular oval reserve GARAKU.

LENGTH 4.9 cm

Condition: Superb condition with a stunning lustrous patina. Some natural age cracks and wear to sumi-e stained details.  
**Provenance:** Julius & Arlette Katchen collection, Paris. Then sold by Rutherford & Bandini to an English private collector.

Netsuke of human figures are exceptionally rare by this Soken Kisho artist.