



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

### Lot 46

**Starting price:** €5000

**Estimate:** €10000

#### Y OKATORI: A SUPERB IVORY NETSUKE OF A RAT EATING A CANDLE

By Yamaguchi Okatori, signed Okatori 岡佳  
Japan, Kyoto, early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely carved and stained, the rat crouching and gnawing at a candle held in its front paws, the wick and eyes inlaid with dark buffalo horn, the fur neatly incised, the tail curling to the underside and forming the himotoshi, the signature OKATORI to the back at the base of the tail within a rectangular reserve.

HEIGHT 2.6 cm, LENGTH 3.9 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with minor surface wear.

**Provenance:** Collection of Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram (1880-1981), and thence by descent in the same family to the present owner. Cherry Ingram was a famous British ornithologist, plant collector, and gardener, who became renowned for his knowledge of Japanese cherry trees. He is the subject of a biography by Naoko Abe, published in 2019, titled 'Cherry' Ingram, The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms.

#### **Auction comparison:**

Compare a related netsuke by the same carver, depicting a rat nibbling at fruit, at Bonhams, The Julius and Arlette Katchen Collection of Fine Netsuke Part II, 10 May 2017, London, lot 48 (**sold for 13,750 GBP**).