



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 60

Starting price: €2000

Estimate: €4000

¥ AN IVORY NETSUKE OF A DOG WITH BALL, ATTRIBUTED TO MITSUHARU

Attributed to Mitsuharu, unsigned

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

A dynamically crafted ivory netsuke of a male dog wearing a large collar, twisting its body and turning its head backwards with an upturned snout. The expression is quite whimsical with minutely inlaid eyes of lustrous dark horn. It holds a large smooth ball between its front paws and has a short curling tail. The fur is neatly incised and inked, heavily worn from generations of handling. The ivory bearing a fine yellowish patina. Natural himotoshi.

HEIGHT 4.4 cm

Condition: Good condition, the inked details worn, some natural age cracks.

Provenance: European collection.

Auction comparison:

Compare with a related ivory netsuke of a bitch with pup, signed Mitsuharu, sold at Bonhams, The Julius and Arlette Katchen Collection of Fine Netsuke Part I, 8 November 2016, London, lot 113 (**sold for 9,375 GBP**).

Literature comparison:

See a discussion of the artist and his netsuke of dogs see INSJ, vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 14.-15. Three typical traits are noted: a dynamically twisted neck, rubbery legs and very particular eyes. These characteristics are all present in this netsuke, note also the two slits carved at the edges of the eyes and the small pupils.