

Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 84

Starting price: €2000

Estimate: €4000

ㄚ SHOKOSAI: AN IVORY NETSUKE OKIMONO OF THE SANSUKUMI

Workshop of Kaigyokosai Masatsugu, signed Shokosai 正光齋

Japan, Osaka or Tokyo, c. 1880, Meiji period (1868-1912)

Finely carved as a sinuously coiled snake, with eyes double-inlaid in amber and dark horn, the mouth wide open with protruding tongue, writhing around a toad with pupils inlaid in dark horn, all atop a naturalistically carved base with scrolling foliage. Usually, a snail is depicted as well, however in this case the toad has already eaten it. Many 'natural' himotoshi due to the openwork nature of the netsuke, although the piece is more a miniature okimono than a netsuke.

WIDTH 5 cm, HEIGHT 4.3 cm

Condition: Good condition with minor wear, natural age cracks, a crack to the snake's body, possibly with an old repair, and another small crack to the snake's mouth.

Provenance: French private collection.

Auction comparison:

Compare a related netsuke of the Sansukumi by Kaigyokusai Masatsugu at Zacke, Fine Netsuke, Sagemono & Okimono, 24 November 2018, Vienna, lot 16 (**sold for 13,794 EUR**).

