



## Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

### Lot 83

**Starting price:** €3000

**Estimate:** €6000

#### Y KAIGYOKUSAI MASATSUGU: A GILT LEATHER TABAKO-IRE WITH INLAID IVORY 'PAIR OF RABBITS' KANAMONO

By Kaigyokusai Masatsugu (1813-1892), signed Kaigyoku 懐玉

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

The tobacco pouch (tabako-ire) crafted from foreign leather and neatly carved in relief with gilt palm leaves and exotic plants on a black ground in the manner of European leather design, the finely polished kanamono (pouch fitting) carved from a choice piece of ivory in the form of a pair of rabbits with inlaid amber eyes, the interior of the pouch lined in silk and depicting a crane as well as floral and foliate motifs, the reverse of the kanomono with the signature KAIGYOKU.

LENGTH 13.3 cm, HEIGHT 9.5 cm (the tabako-ire), LENGTH 4.3 cm (the kanamono)

Condition: Good condition, the leather worn as expected, the kanamono with light scratches and a small chip to the reverse. The rabbits themselves are in superb condition.  
Provenance: UK private collection.

#### **Auction comparison:**

Compare an ivory netsuke of a hare with amber eyes by the same carver at Van Ham, Asiatische Kunst, 14 June 2018, Cologne, lot 2209 (**sold for 38,700 EUR**).

#### **Literature comparison:**

A suede pouch with an inlaid ivory kanamono in the form of a monkey with peaches, by Kaigyokusai with the assistance of his pupil Tetsugen, is illustrated in Lazarnick, George (1981) *Netsuke & Inro Artists, and How to Read Their Signatures*, vol. 1, p. 561. An ivory netsuke of a pair of rabbits with amber-inlaid eyes by the same carver, once in the collection of Raymond Bushell, is in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, accession number M.91.250.217.