



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 65

Starting price: €4000

Estimate: €8000

‡ A RARE AND SUPERB IVORY NETSUKE OF RYUJIN WITH TAMA, ATTRIBUTED TO SANKO

Unsigned

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

Finely carved standing on both feet with the knees slightly bent as he lifts a pierced tama with a loose ball inside (magic jewel) with both hands over his head, his loose-fitting robe neatly incised with geometric decorations and scrolling cloud designs, the face with an enigmatic expression and well detailed features, the mouth slightly open showing two central teeth, the back with two asymmetrical and generously excavated himotoshi.

HEIGHT 7.5 cm

Condition: Very good condition with minor wear, few natural age cracks.

Provenance: European collection.

Auction comparison:

Compare an ivory netsuke of Seiobo, inscribed Tametaka and attributed to Sanko, dated to the early 19th century, at Bonhams, The Julius and Arlette Katchen Collection of Fine Netsuke Part I, 8 November 2016, London, lot 16 (**sold for 6,875 GBP**).

Literature comparison:

An ivory netsuke attributed to Sanko and depicting the same subject, though smaller and considerably less fine, is illustrated in Rutherford & Bandini (2013) *Japanese Netsuke*, no.10. Also compare to a signed netsuke by Sanko, showing very similar faces, of Ikkaku Sennin and Lady of Benares, illustrated in Meinertzhagen, Frederick / Lazarnick, George (1986) *MCI*, Part B, p. 693.