



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0421)

Fri, 16th Apr 2021

Lot 121

Starting price: €4000

Estimate: €8000

NAITO TOYOMASA: A VERY RARE AND SUPERB WOOD NETSUKE OF A KOREAN BOY

By Naito Toyomasa (1773-1856), signed Toyomasa 豊昌
Japan, Sasayama, Tanba province, first half of 19th century,
Edo period (1615-1868)

The boy standing on one foot, one leg and two arms raised in a dynamic motion, dancing in jubilation. He wears a characteristically foreign wide-brimmed feathered hat and coat incised with floral patterns and scrolling vines. The face is carved extremely well – the eyes are large, and the mouth is slightly opened. Black staining is used in the crevices for effect. The well-toned wood of a very appealing color, with a fine unctuous patina. Large, generously excavated himotoshi through the back and signed underneath the hem of the coat TOYOMASA.

HEIGHT 6.3 cm

Condition: Good condition with some associated surface wear. One foot restored.

Provenance: Ex-collection Ann Meselson, Sotheby's, 2 December 1994, New York, lot 253.

A very unusual and unique subject for the artist executed in his usual vigor, style, and quality. One other netsuke of a foreigner on a shishi, however without illustration, is recorded in H.L Joly (1975) Catalogue of the H. Seymour Trower Collection of Japanese Art, no. 43.