

WELCOME!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN JAPANESE SWORDS AND
DOWNLOADING THIS REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN THE DESCRIPTION OF AN
AUTHENTIC AND CERTIFIED JAPANESE SWORD THAT WAS SOLD IN
JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 22.

THE CATALOGUE WAS FIRST RELEASED ON **SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2015** TO
ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PART OF OUR VIP EMAIL LIST.

TO DOWNLOAD THE ENTIRE PDF CATALOGUE (~87MB), PLEASE VISIT:

<http://tinyurl.com/uj-catalogue-22>

PLEASE CONTACT **SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM** TO BECOME
INFORMED ON OUR LATEST ACQUISITIONS AND YOUR NAME WILL
BE ADDED TO OUR VIP EMAILING LIST.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU.

WE HAVE SERVICE OFFICES IN TOKYO, JAPAN AND NEAR LONDON,
ENGLAND.



PABLO KUNTZ
FOUNDER, UNIQUE JAPAN

SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM

+44 7954 102 277 (MOBILE, ON BRITISH TIME)

PHOTOS TAKEN BY **ERIC BOSSICK** FOR UNIQUE JAPAN.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



ITEM# UJKA163

A NAKATA KANEHIDE KATANA

SIGNED, MIDDLE SHOWA ERA (CIRCA WWII)

- Swordsmith:** Noshu Ju KANEHIDE
Location: Saitama prefecture
Length: 70.8cm (*machi-okuri nakago*)
Curvature: 2.2cm
Motohaba: 3.2cm
Sakihaba: 2.1cm
Jihada: Ko-itame
Hamon: High yaki and gorgeous choji-midare
Certificate #1: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*a koshirae designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
Ranking: Rikugun Jumei Tosho (*certified swordsmith from Army headquarters of Japan during wartime*)
Included: Koshirae, shirasaya, sword fabric bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, care guide, registration and export paperwork

SOLD

Superstar gendai swordsmith **Nakata Kanehide** was born **Isamu Nakata** on August 24th 1913 (Taisho 2) in Nagano prefecture.

He apprenticed under 12th generation Kawashima Masahide for 8 years and then became the pupil of the smith Watanabe Kanenaga in Seki city, Gifu prefecture in 1937.

Kanehide is said to have gifted a sword in 1943 to **Hideki Tojo** who was general of the Imperial Japanese Army, leader of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and the 40th Prime Minister of Japan during much of World War II.

After the WWII, Kanehide won numerous awards commencing in 1955 at Japanese Sword Fine Art Contests held by the NBTHK winning the *Doryoku Award* three times and the *Nyusen Award* eight times.

He also was bestowed the honor of making swords for the Emperor and Empress Showa in 1957. Kanehide became an **Important Intangible Cultural Asset** of Seki city in 1976 and a year later the same honours of Gifu prefecture.

This katana was likely crafted when he was **Rikugun Jumei Toshō**, a certified swordsmith from Army headquarters of Japan during wartime.

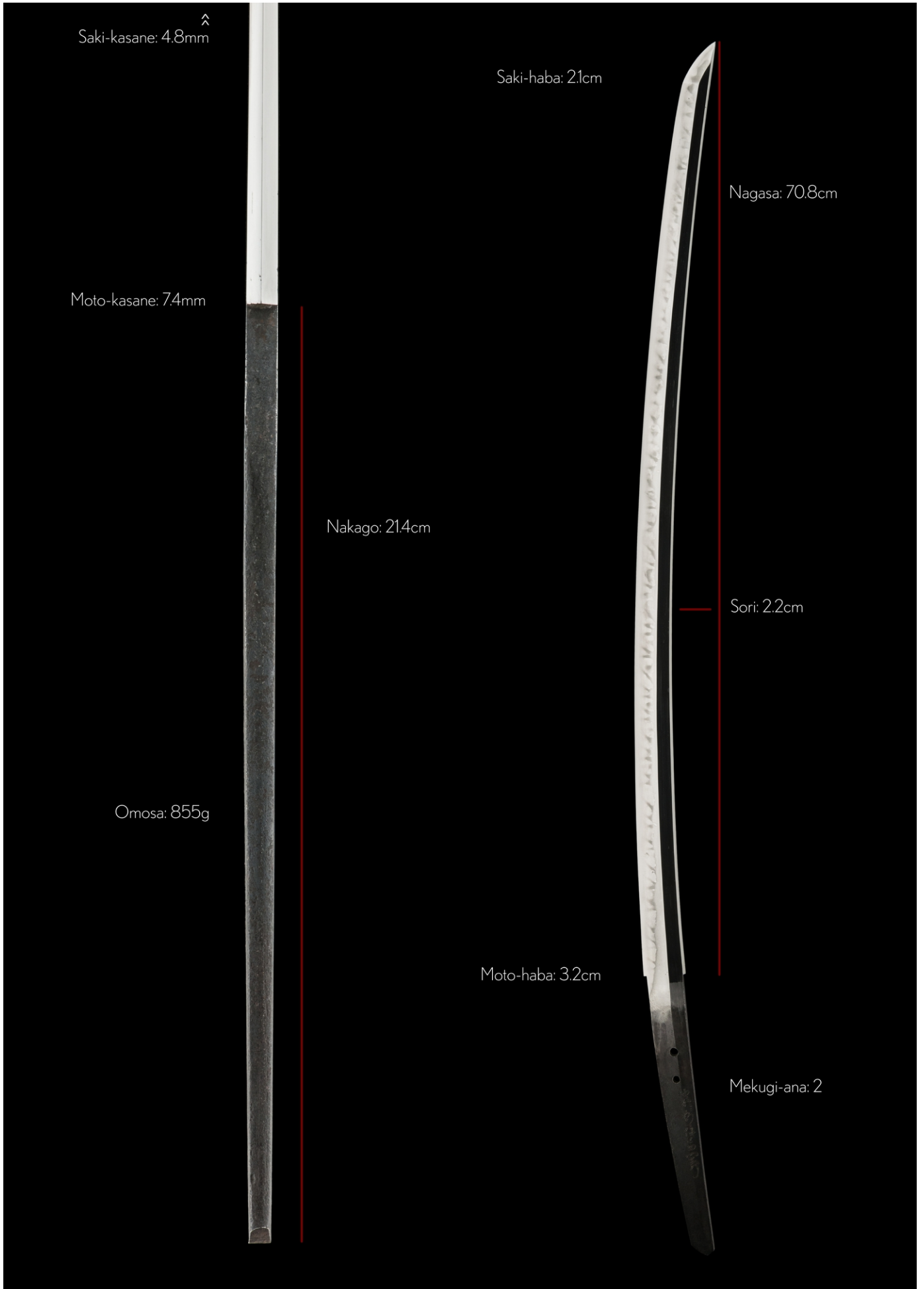
The *choji-midare hamon* is absolutely stunning. This is a sword that demonstrates all the greatness that one would expect from such a valiant emblem of 20th century Japan craftsmanship.

The length and curvature would make it an ideal sword for someone practicing Iaido. The *koshirae* is thoughtfully crafted, fits tightly, and adorned with nature-inspired fittings.

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification that accompanies the sword attests to the fact traditional techniques were used to forge the katana. There will also be an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate for the *koshirae* fittings.

Photos and information follow. Below is a photo of the traditional brocade bag for the sword.









Prefecture: Gifu
Ward: Noshu (living in)
Smith: Kanehide

No
shu
ju
Kane
hide

Hamon

The NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate describes the *hamon* as:

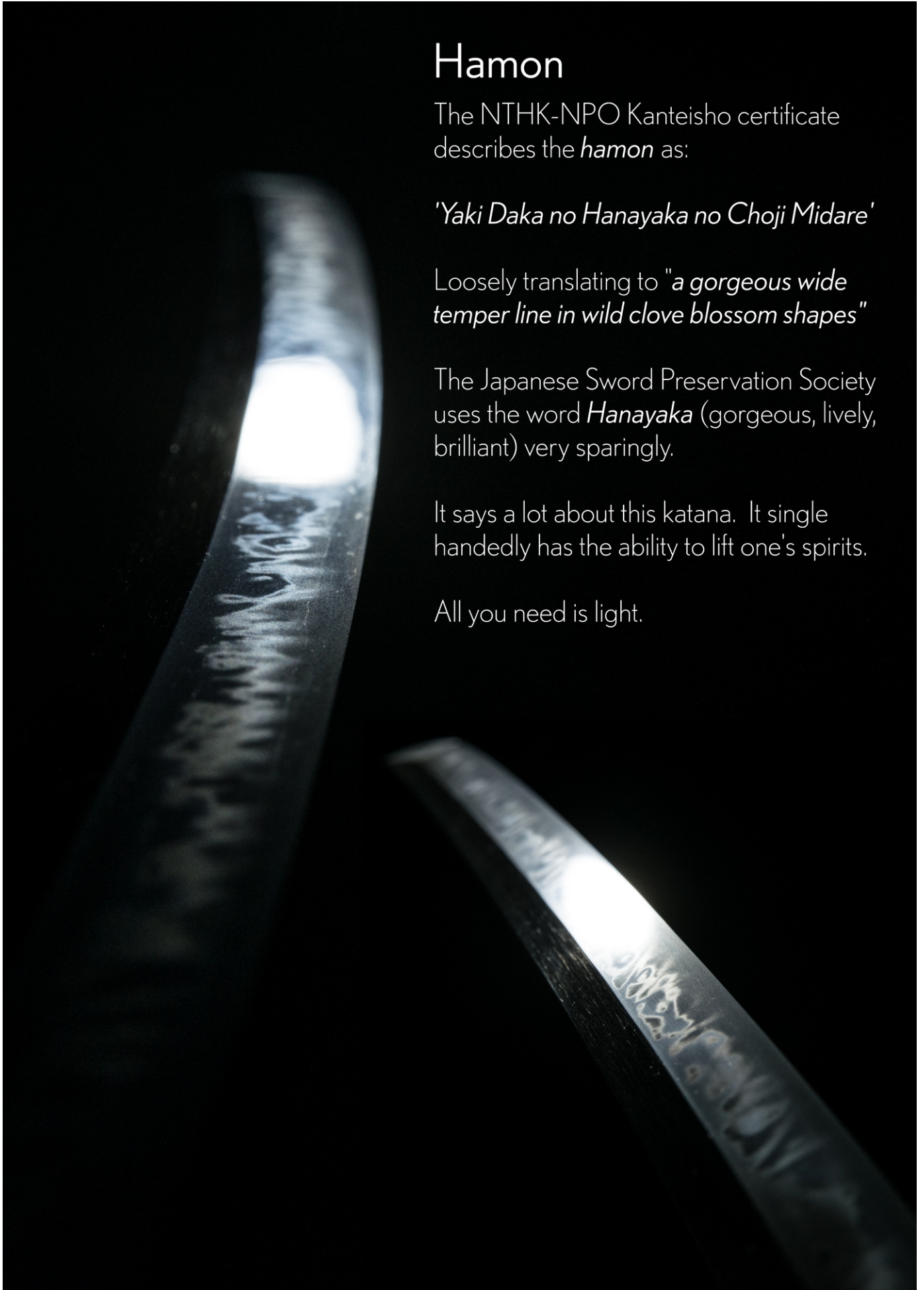
'Yaki Daka no Hanayaka no Choji Midare'

Loosely translating to "*a gorgeous wide temper line in wild clove blossom shapes*"

The Japanese Sword Preservation Society uses the word *Hanayaka* (gorgeous, lively, brilliant) very sparingly.

It says a lot about this katana. It single handedly has the ability to lift one's spirits.

All you need is light.





Ashi

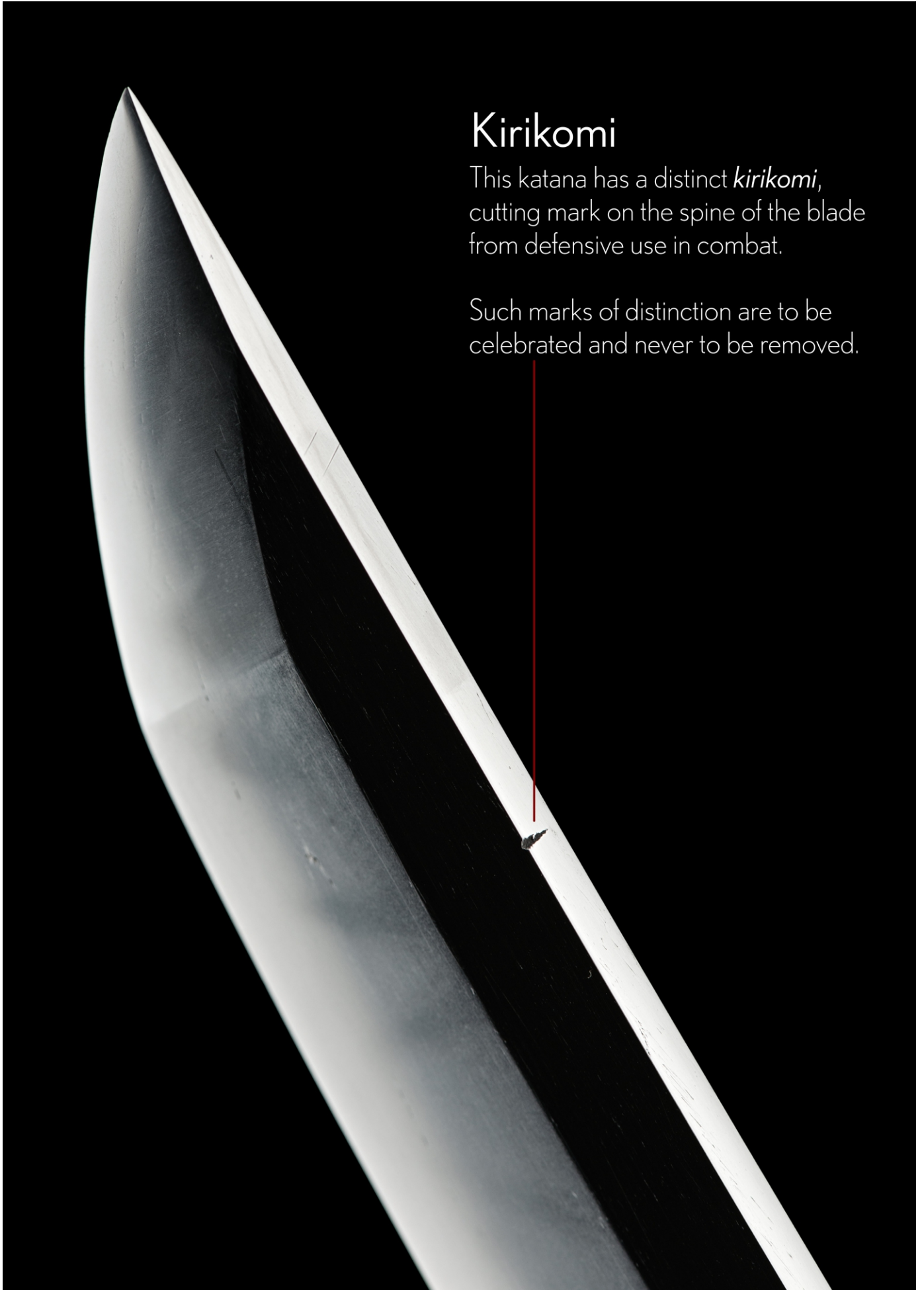
Ashi are "legs" - thin lines of *nioi* crystals (very fine crystals that resemble the Milky Way) that extend from the *hamon* to the cutting edge.

Ashi serve the purpose of limiting the size of lateral cracks at the edge of the blade should damage occur.

Kirikomi

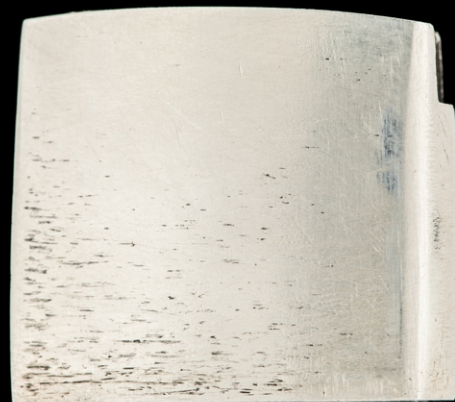
This katana has a distinct *kirikomi*, cutting mark on the spine of the blade from defensive use in combat.

Such marks of distinction are to be celebrated and never to be removed.





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



Hito-e-habaki
(painted on copper)





Tsuba

An iron *mokko* shaped (4-lobed) *tsuba* prominently signed *Sadahiro*.

The design is that of tadpoles in gold inlay swimming along the surface.

Tadpoles are seen as symbol of luck and abundance.





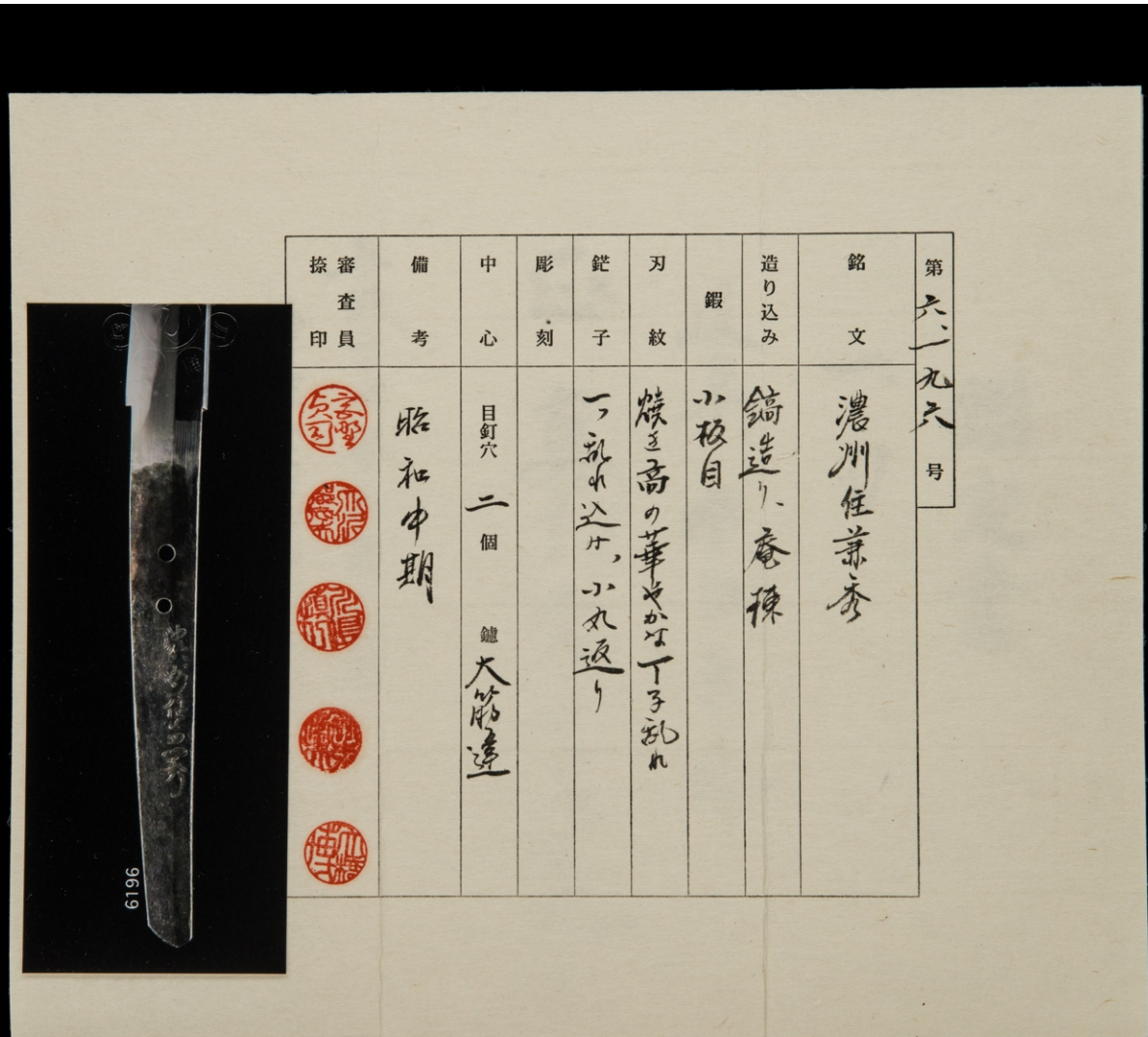


Menuki

The *menuki* (grips under the silk) are of peonies, known as the 'King of Flowers'. A symbol of good fortune, bravery and honour.

The *tsuka-maki* (wrapping of the silk) is a beautifully complex braid known as *ajirokumi-agemaki*.





NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate (sword)

The NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity for the blade itself. This certificate attests to the authenticity and importance of conserving this sword.

Each numbered certificate, made of traditional washi paper, carries a photograph of the *nakago* (tang). The red *hankos* are the individual stamps of each experienced judge that personally reviewed the sword.

The certificate provides useful information on the characteristics of blade such as the *mei* (signature, if present), *suguta* (structure), *hamon* (temper line), *jigane* (surface grain), *boshi* (tip temper line), *nakago* (tang) and its estimated age.

Non-Profit Nihon Token Hozon Kai
The Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

Kiri motif with vines



Spiritual growth