

JAPANESE Sword Catalogue 27.5

FIRST RELEASED: MARCH 16/2017

(COVER PHOTO)

item# ujka247

A BISHU OSAFUNE YASUMITSU KATANA Early Muromachi Period (1429~1441) NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon



ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS (VOLUME 27.5)

Released: March 16, 2017 to VIP Clients only Updated: April 16, 2017

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGES OF GENUINE ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS THAT WERE SOLD IN CATALOGUE 27. THIS IS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU.

We have service offices in Tokyo, Japan and Near London, England.



Pablo Kuntz Founder, unique japan

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Hello everyone,

I trust this message finds you in great spirits. Thank you for downloading Catalogue 27.

I'm very proud of the swords contained within this catalogue. Each sword is special and collectible. Every sword has attained prestigious **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** certification apart from the *Kuniie tachi* because the master smith is still alive. Most of swords I acquired on my trip to Japan in January 2017.

Tokubetsu Hozon translates as a sword '*especially worthy of preservation*'. Each sword is made to a standard that deserves to be cherished by someone who reflects such excellence. It is my hope that the new caretakers gain a burst of emotional fuel to live each and every day as if it's their last. Let's make the memory of our lives <u>also</u> *especially worthy of preservation* by creating a lasting contribution to this world.

We begin the catalogue with a powerful katana that is dated to "*A Good Day in February 1854*". The sword smith is *Suishinshi Masatsugu*, grandson to the shinshinto grandmaster *Suishinshi Masahide*. This sword's unique shape was inspired by the famous *Kogarasu Maru tachi* from the 8th century. The top 13cm of the blade is double-edged. I must admit, when holding this sword, I feel a sense of absolute invincibility.

The next piece is a katana by *Jojo-saku* swordsmith *Dewa Daijo Kunimichi*. This splendid sword is in a wonderful polish and with me here in the UK on consignment. The blade measures to a *Jo-sun* length, (2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu or 71.5cm), modified to this benchmark size for a samurai katana in the Edo period.

The third sword is one that I remember fondly from my trip in Japan. It is a katana by second generation *Takahira* from the celebrated *Kanewaka school*. Everything about this sword speaks to samurai status. From the quality to the blade to the antique battle-ready koshirae that I believe to be the original to the sword. If you wish to be transported to Kanazawa city 300-plus years ago, strongly consider this sword.

Our forth piece is a muscular katana by famed swordsmith *Musashi Daijo Korekazu*. Korekazu is one of the leading figures of the shinto period having established the Edo Ishido school in the early 1600s. His influence was so great that several generations of Korekazu followed in his footsteps. It's easy to see why.

If you love dragons and you want a sharp sword with character and flair, then the fifth piece by *Kozuke no Kami Kunitsune* katana is for you. Look for the hidden dragon in the scabbard! Next, the *Awa no Kami Yasutsuna* katana from the *Kii Ishido school* is a delightful sword that was crafted near Osaka castle in the mid-1600s. This sword has good energy. I can tell that it has been cherished by previous owners.

The seventh sword is a stellar *tachi* by modern-day maestro **Yoshihara Kuniie** (Shoji). This sword knocked my socks off in Japan. At nearly 80cm in cutting length with a grand Kamakura *koshi-zori* curvature and over a kilogram in weight, this *gunome choji-midare* Bizen masterpiece is an absolute tour de force.

Our cover sword is our eighth piece - a beautiful katana made nearly 600 years ago by notable smith *Bishu Osafune Yasumitsu*. Elegance surrounds this rare treasure in every way. I recommend highly. Our final piece is a superb wakizashi by *Hidetoki* that will make for an enjoyable custom koshirae project.

Thank you to all who have joined our VIP email list and to the many who claimed swords in Tokyo via a private meeting. As always, we look forward to serving you.

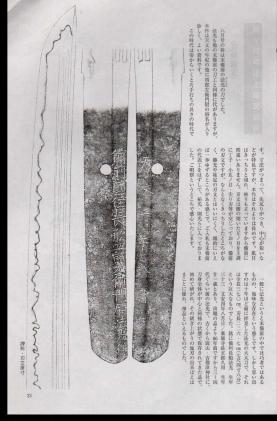
Warm regards,



Pablo Kuntz March 2017



Happy 10th birthday Hannah!



Blade featured in an NBTHK sword quiz

A recently sold katana...

Bizen no Kuni Ju Osafune Shirozaemon no Jo Norimitsu Saku

Tenmon 2-nen 8-gatsu Kichijitsu (dated a good day in August 1533)

Congratulations Graham!



INDEX OF AVAILABLE JAPANESE SWORDS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
ujka175	A MASATSUGU KATANA	71.8	Tokubetsu Hozon	Dated February 1854	SOLD
ujka236	A KUNIMICHI KATANA	71.5	Tokubetsu Hozon	Kan'ei (1624~1644)	SOLD
ujka238	A TAKAHIRA II KATANA	69.7	Tokubetsu Hozon	Dated August 1681	SOLD
ujka239	A KOREKAZU KATANA	71.5	Tokubetsu Hozon	Kanbun (1661~1673)	SOLD
ujka243	A KUNITSUNE KATANA	67.7	Tokubetsu Hozon	Manji (1658~1661)	SOLD
ujka245	A YASUTSUNA KATANA	70.3	Tokubetsu Hozon	Kanbun (1661~1673)	SOLD
ujka246	A KUNIIE TACHI	77.6	N/A (living smith)	Dated Heisei 9 (1997)	SOLD
ujka247	A YASUMITSU II KATANA	66.3	Tokubetsu Hozon	Eikyo (1429~1441)	SOLD
ujwa209	A HIDETOKI WAKIZASHI	53.8	Tokubetsu Hozon	Shoho era (1644~1648)	SOLD

ALL PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS

To access current and previous catalogues, please visit: <u>http://new.uniquejapan.com/currently-available-swords-at-unique-japan</u>

TO ONLINE VISITORS AROUND THE WORLD...

WELCOME! WE COMPLETELY RESPECT THE FACT IT TAKES A HUGE LEAP OF PERSONAL FAITH IN US TO COMMIT TO A PARTICULAR SWORD(S) GIVEN THE RELIANCE ON PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR SUCH A HIGHLY VALUED ITEM.

IT IS OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS ALL YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY. IT'S IMPORTANT TO US THAT YOU FEEL COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE SWORD YOU CHOOSE (AND CHOOSES <u>YOU</u>) IS DESTINED FOR YOUR FAMILY TO CHERISH AND PRESERVE.

PLEASE TAKE REASSURANCE THAT ALL SWORDS FROM UNIQUE JAPAN ARE GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC AND COME WITH A <u>3-Day worry free</u> <u>Inspection Period</u> upon Arrival to your home.

WE ACQUIRE SWORDS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CAN SOURCE SWORDS For collectors seeking a specific smith and/or school.

PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT OUR LATEST ARRIVALS THAT MAY NOT BE LISTED IN THE CATALOGUE.

Also, be sure let us know if you are travelling to Tokyo as we can book a private meeting together at our studio in Ebisu.

Domo arigato, Pablo





ITEM# UJKA175

A MASATSUGU KATANA

SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (KAEI ERA: A GOOD DAY IN FEBRUARY 1854)

Swordsmith:	Suishinshi Fujiwara Masatsu	gu	
Measurements:	Length: 71.8cm (ubu) Cu	irvature: 1.0cm	Moto-haba: 3.29cm
Jihada:	Koitame		
Hamon:	Gunome choji midare, long ashi,	sunagashi, kinsuji	
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a	ı sword designated as	Especially Worthy of
Preservation by the S	Society for the Preservation of the J	apanese Art Sword)	
Certificate #2:	NTHK-NPO Yushusaku (a su	vord designated as Hi	ghly Excellent by the Society
for the Preservation of	of the Japanese Sword)		
Authenticity:	Sayagaki by Tanobe sensei		
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (ranked as a superior su	vordsmith)	
Included:	Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, k	it, DVD, booklet, pr	rinted description

SOLD

Behold a late Edo period gem by one of the most celebrated swordsmiths of the Shinshinto period, *Suishinshi Masatsugu*. The unique structure of this katana being doubled edged near the *kissaki* (tip area) was inspired by the imperial treasure *Kogarasu-maru tachi* from the 8th century by *Amakuni*. This is one very sharp, muscular sword. The *hamon* carries an abundance of *hataraki* (activity) to admire with beautiful long *ashi* (legs). Certification includes NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon, NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and comprehensive *sayagaki* by Tanobe sensei.

☆ Saki-kasane: 6.5mm

Moto-kasane: 8.0mm

Omosa: 910g

Nakago: 19.1cm

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Saki-haba: 2.5cm

Nagasa: 71.8cm

Sori: 1.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1

The unique shape of the katana is called *kissaki-moroha-zukuri*, whereby the sword is doubleedged near the kissaki (tip).

This shape was inspired by the great *Kogarasu-maru* (right) meaning "little crow", the most important sword of study in Japanese history.

The tachi is attributed to swordsmith *Amakuni Yasutsuna* from Yamato province (Nara) circa 710AD.

The shape is seen as a bridge between the old double-edged Japanese Ken (originally by way of China) and the traditional Japanese tachi. This all formed the basis for the eventual Japanese katana.



Kogarasu-maru Imperial treasure Amakuni, circa 710AD

Swordsmith: Suishinshi Masatsugu



Sui shin shi Masa tsugu

(Kaou)



Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu Kichijitsu (dated on a good day in February 1854)

Ka ei 7

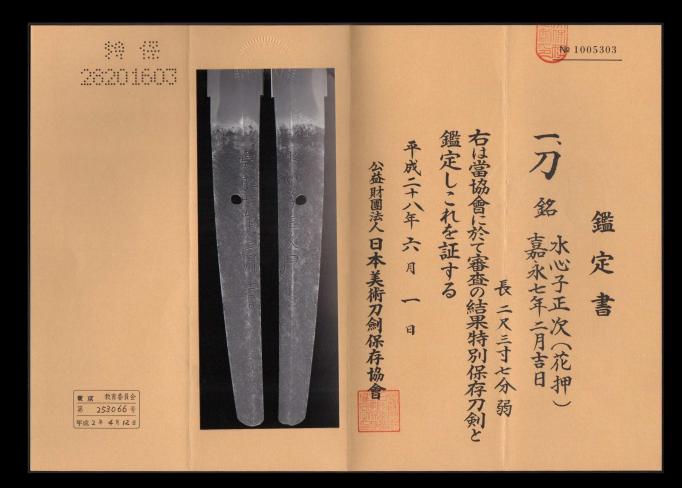
nen

2

gatsu

Kichi

jitsu



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), June 1st

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Suishinshi Masatsugu (Kaou) Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu kichijitsu (dated on a good day in February 1854)

> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu (71.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK) Born *Kawabe Hokushi*, Masatsugu was the son of the 2nd generation Masahide, becoming the 3rd generation Suishinshi.

Due to the early passing of his father he completed his studies with grandmaster swordsmith *Taikei Naotane.* He would eventually marry his daughter.

Masatsugu died on March 11, 1860.

Masatsugu signed with the same *Suishinshi* name and official *kao* (seal) as his father.

捺 審 査 印員	備考	寸 法	拵 え	中心	図柄	彫 り	鋩子	刃紋	下地	鍛	造り込み	銘文	第 × 0
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NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Designation

(a sword designated as *Highly Excellent* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

Issued in the 27th year of Heisei (2015), December 13th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Suishinshi Masatsugu (Kaou) Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu kichijitsu (dated on a good day in February 1854)

> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu (71.8cm)

Nihon Token Hozon Kai (NTHK-NPO)

**This certificate is the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO

Suishinshi

Ū

水心子藤原正次上与造便正調姿態, 星津白原原を立ろ月調しま

ほそそり砂浜金筋とこと的勢とにき出来に笑 それ又多すとか弱育と 探い遊道

Fujiwara

Masatsugu

5 Ji Mei Kaou Narabi ni Kaei 7 nen 2 gatsu Kichijitsu Shirushi Ari Kore Doukou wa Naotane Kado Naran Suishinshi Masahide no Youshi to Naruto Den no Hontou wa Kissaki Ryoba Tsukuru Tsumari Kogarasu Tsukuri no Fukko Cho no Sugata wo Teishi Nie Nioi Shinkou Naru Gunome Cho no Midare wo Yaki Ashi Hairi Sunagashi Kinsen wo Ashirai Dousei ni Tomite Deki Yoroshi

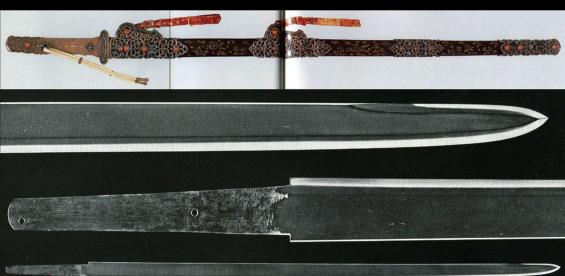
Five character signature with kaou stamp, dated on a good day in February 1854. Masatsugu was a student of Naotane and offspring of Suishinshi Masahide. The tip is double-edged and represents a faithful reproduction of Kogarasu. Deep and thick nie and nioi, irregularly undulating temper line, ashi, sunagashi, kinsen, abundance of hataraki. A well made sword.

Nagasa 2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu jaku arikore (71.8cm) Jizai Hinototori Moushun (January in 2017) Tanzan Hendoushiki (Kaou) signed by Tanobe sensei with seal



Kissaki-moroha-zukuri (double-edged near tip construction)

Length of the double cutting edge: 13cm



Emperor Shomu's collection (8th century) Chinese sword (Kara-tachi) with kissaki-moroha-zukuri

Special Exhibition "The Japanese Sword" by the Tokyo National Museum (1997)

vivid streaks of *kinsuji (aka kinsen)* golden (black) lines of nie crystals in the *hamon* (temper line).

a gorgeous *gunome choji midare hamon* (clove-blossom temper line) with remarkably long *ashi* (legs)

Masatsugu is rated *Jo-saku* (a superior smith) by Fujishiro and was highly skilled in the Bizen and Soshu traditions.

A handful of swords by Masatsugu have attained prestigious NBTHK Juyo Token status. It is extremely challenging for a Shinshinto smith to reach this level thereby speaking volumes to his overall talent.

kinsuji

ashi (long legs extending to the cutting edge) Masatsugu is grandson to master swordsmith *Suishinshi Masahide*.

Considered the father of the Shinshinto period, Masahide mourned the disappearance of the old traditional Koto methods and advocated for their restoration. This seed blossomed into the *fukkoto* movement.

The force of his claim was so influential that numerous sword smiths within the country came to study under him. There were at least 200 students during the lifetime of the school including his star student *Taikei Naotane* who became an adoptive father to Masatsugu.

sunagashi (streams of sand)

Hello, little crow.





ITEM# UJKA236

A KUNIMICHI KATANA Signed, early edo period (kan'ei era: 1624~1644)

Swordsmith:	Dewa Daijo Fujiwara Kunimichi
Location:	Yamashiro province (Kyoto)
Measurements:	Length: 71.5cm (suriage to <i>Jo-sun</i>) Curvature: 1.8cm Weight: 837g
Jihada:	Dense mokume (in beautiful polish)
Hamon:	Yakidashi suguha with gunome midare, kinsen, sunagashi and Mishina boshi
Certificate:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of
Preservation by the S	Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)
Fujishiro:	Jojo-saku (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
Asaemon:	Wazamono (rated as a maker of sharp swords)
Included:	Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

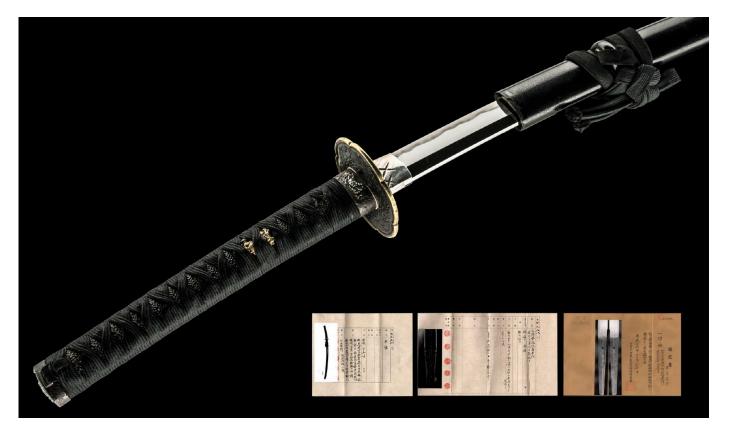
SOLD

Born in 1596, Kunimichi is one of the finest swordsmiths from the Edo period. Ranked *Jojo-saku*, a highly superior smith, he studied under both *Iga no Kami Kinmichi* of the *Mishina school* and grandmaster *Horikawa Kunihiro*. He is considered Kunihiro's most accomplished student.

This handsome katana has just been polished by a *mukansa* rated polisher and stands in sublime condition. The eye-catching *hamon* starts off *suguha* (straight) and then billows into a flamboyant *gunome midare hamon* with *tobiyaki, sunagashi* and *kinsuji*. This sword has recently been imported from Japan into the UK. It has a lovely custom *koshirae* with a wise and noble message.

Please watch video introduction (19-min): https://youtu.be/27hiuAdr7IE





ITEM# UJKA238

A TAKAHIRA KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD, 9TH YEAR OF ENPO (AUGUST 1681)

Swordsmith: Kashu Kanazawa Ju Takahira (Denuemon, 2nd generation Takahira) **Measurements:** Length: 69.7cm Curvature: 2.4cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm Jihada: Itame and masame hada (wavy and straight grain) with chikei Hamon: Bright gunome midare with good ashi, sunagashi and kinsen Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword) Certificate #2: **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword) Certificate #3: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword) **Fujishiro: Chu-Josaku** (ranked as an above average swordsmith)

Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

SOLD

Second generation swordsmith *Takahira* (*Denuemon*) is from the prestigious *Kanewaka School* from Kaga province that worked closely with the wealthy and powerful Maeda family. This beautiful katana, signed and dated to *August 1681*, radiates a samurai glow. The *hamon* is bright and free-flowing on a clean straight-grain *masame hada* that requires great skill and precision.

Quite remarkably, it's splendid battle-ready *koshirae* with a traditional crisscross grooved *Kaga habaki* has been preserved for well over 250 years, making it likely to be the original koshirae to the sword itself. Certification includes NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon and NTHK-NPO Yushusaku.

\$ Saki-kasane: 4.6mm

Moto-kasane: 6.4mm

Omosa: 680g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

Nakago: 20.1cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 69.7cm Sori: 2.4cm

Mekugi-ana: 2





Province: *Kashu* (Ishikawa Prefecture) City: *Kanazawa* Swordsmith: *Takahira*

Swordsmith Takahira crafted this sword while living in Kanazawa city in Kashu (Kaga) province.

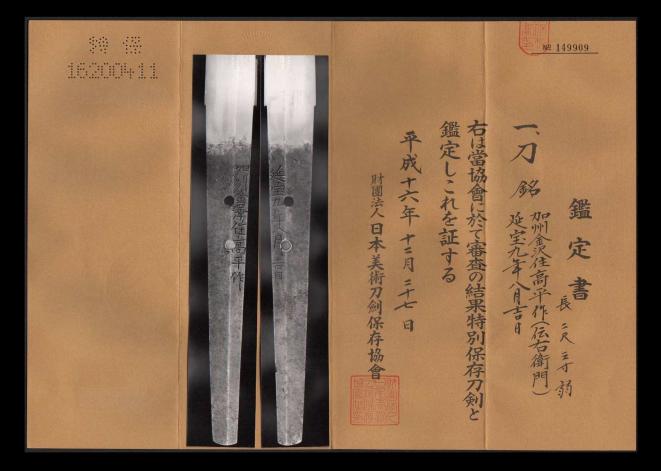
Ka shu Kana zawa ju Taka hira saku

Enpo 9-nen 8-gatsu Kichi-jitsu

This katana was dated on a good day in the 8th month of the 9th year of Enpo era (August 1681)



En po 9 nen 8 gatsu Kichi jitsu



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 16th year of Heisei (2004), December 27th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Kashu Kanazawa ju Takahira Saku (Den Uemon) Enpo 9-nen 8-gatsu Kichijitsu (dated on a good day in August 1681)

> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun (69.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

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								天了	自交どう			棟		

NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Designation

(a sword designated as *Highly Excellent* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), December 18th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Kashu Kanazawa Ju Takahira Saku Enpo 9-nen 8-gatsu kichijitsu (dated on a good day in August 1681)

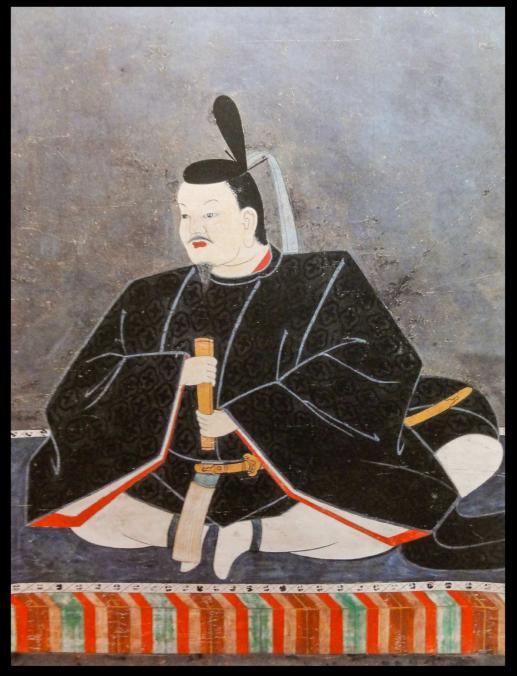
> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun (69.7cm)

> Nihon Token Hozon Kai (NTHK-NPO)

**This certificate is the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO

Beautiful *masame hada* (straight grain) with lines of *chikei* (nie crystals).





Maeda Toshitsune (1593-1658)

First generation Kanewaka School swordsmith *Jinroku Kanewaka* was offered the head position in Kaga Domain by the third head daimyo leader <u>Maeda Toshitsune</u>.

Kanewaka then moved to Kaga from Mino province between 10th-11th year of Keicho (1605-1606). He first signed *Echu no Kami* and changed his smith name to *Takahira* in the the 5th year of Genna era (1619). He died in 5th Kan'ei, 1628

His work was so highly regarded that he earned the nickname *Kaga Masamune*. Eventually, his success resulted in blades that were very expensive to acquire.

There was even a saying: "Samurai who want a Kanewaka [sword] have to spend so much money that they even have to sell their daughters!"

A bright and consistent wavy gunome midare hamon.

Notice the long *ashi* (legs) extending to the sword's edge. Dedication. Concentration. Inspiration.



Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



Kashu-habaki (silver habaki made in the Kaga design tradition)



This rare set of *koshirae* (mounts) has a certificate of authenticity dating it to the middle Edo period, circa late 1600s to middle 1700s.

As the sword is dated to 1681, the fittings could be the original set to when the sword was first crafted.





Tsuba

A splendid polished iron tsuba in the shape of a quince flower. It features a brass *mimi* (rim) that is engraved with a detailed vine pattern.

A beautiful peony design (known as the king of flowers) is elegantly carved into the body of the tsuba. This is a fine representation of understated samurai elegance. To appreciate such handcrafted art work requires a moment of pause and inner reflection.

This tsuba was crafted during the Edo period.



reverse



A solitary silver butterfly floats on the iron fuchi...

Freedom.

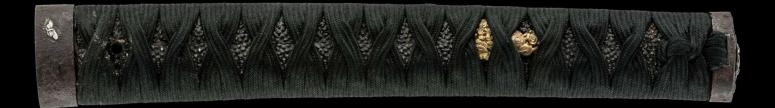


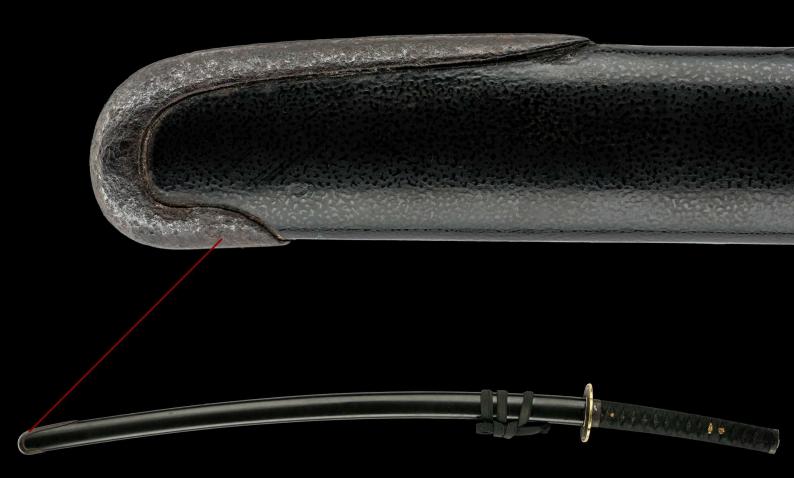
The *kashira* (pommel) carries a *botan* (peony). The peony is referred to as the "King of Flowers" in Japan.

There appears to be a gold crown on the top of the peony.



Gold shisa lions on the *menuki* guard the sword with all their might.





A solid iron *kojiri* (end cap) reinforces the *saya* (scabbard).

The kojiri provides the samurai with an additional weapon to defend himself without necessarily drawing the sword.



The black *samekawa* (ray skin) on the hilt gives better grip for the samurai, especially in the rain. It also camouflages spilt blood better than white ray skin.

This is an authentic, no-nonsense battle-ready koshirae from the Edo period.





ITEM# UJKA239

A SAKON KOREKAZU KATANA Signed, early edo period, kanbun era (1661~1673)

Swordsmith:	Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu (Shodai, first generation)						
Measurements:	Length: 71.5cm (ubu) Curvature: 1.5cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm						
Jihada:	Itame and masame hada (wavy and straight grain) with chikei and utsuri						
Hamon:	Choji-midare, with plentiful sunagashi and kinsen						
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of						
Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)							
Certificate #2-4:	NTHK-NPO Yushusaku & Kanteisho (a sword designated as Highly Excellent						
and a tsuba & koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)							
Authenticity:	Sayagaki by Tanobe sensei						
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)						
Cutting ability:	Ryo-Wazamono (maker of good sharp swords)						
Included:	Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description						

SOLD

Musashi Daijo Korekazu was one of the finest swordsmiths and leading figures of the shinto period. He moved from Omi province to Edo (Tokyo) to establish the *Edo Ishido school* in the early 1600s and trained many excellent swordsmiths as faithful stewards of the Bizen tradition. The finest work of which is reminiscent of *Ichimonji school* blades from the Kamakura period.

This powerful *Jo-sun* (2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu) katana is emblematic of the work of Korekazu. A *choji midare hamon* lights up the steel with generous amounts of *sunagashi, kinsen, tobiyaki* and *utsuri*. The *koshirae* features a lovely arrangement of *kiku* (chrysanthemum) design-inspired fittings. NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon, NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and *sayagaki* authenticity by Tanobe sensei.

\$ Saki-kasane: 5.1mm

Moto-kasane: 7.1mm

-

Omosa: 725g

Saki-haba: 2.0cm Nakago: 20.0cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Nagasa: 71.5cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





sashi

Dai

Mu

jo

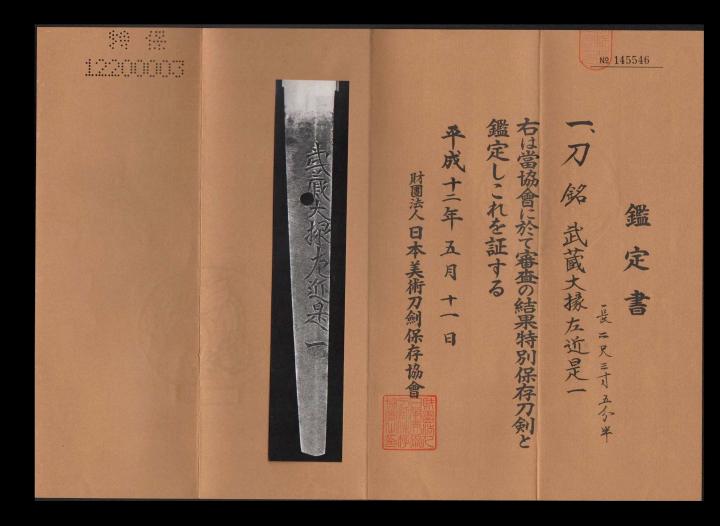
Sa

kon

Kore

kazu

Title: Musashi Daijo Civilian name: [Kawakami] Sakon Swordsmith: *Korekazu*



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 12th year of Heisei (2000), May 11th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu

Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu han (71.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

	捺 審 査 印員	備考	寸 法	拵 え	中心	図柄	彫 り	鋩子	刃紋	下地	鍛	造り込み	銘 文	第 、 0
6118		慶安頃			目前六一個 题次、竹的莲子			一夜月に深く焼きいえ返り	真、利いれれ、鍋、油っ丁ラ ふれ		小极自	错进了、管理	武武又旅左近是一	0 九 号

NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Designation

(a sword designated as *Highly Excellent* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), December 18th

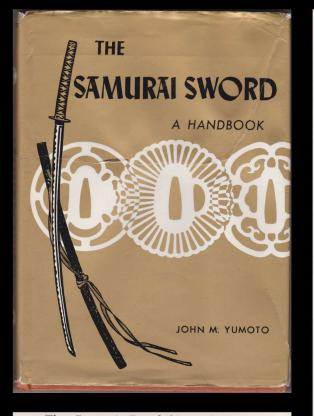
One, Katana

Mei (signature) Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu

Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (71.5cm)

Nihon Token Hozon Kai (NTHK-NPO)

**This certificate is the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO



The Samurai Sword is an indispensable book for the fortunate owner of one and an invaluable source book for all interested in this superb craft, the secrets of which have been jealously guarded for centuries.



THE AUTHOR, John M. Yumoto, is perhaps the foremost authority on the samurai sword outside of Japan. A native of California, he began his study of Japanese swordcraft during his early childhood in Japan. While in Japan he studied under a number of masters from different schools and learned the art of sword polishing and of identification and evaluation. He has held membership in a number of sword clubs and at present is an active member of the Japan Society for the Preservation of the Samurai Sword and the Northern California Sword Club. He has also been requested to serve as advisor to the Japanese Sword Society of the United States, presently being organized.

Periods of Sword History

placing "gingerbread" on their products, and one can find on the swords of this period extravagant engravings of flowers, shrubbery, and dragons, instead of the simple Sanskrit characters or grooves of older swords. Even in the tempered lines of the swords there may be found intricate and picturesque representations of maple leaves, cherry blossoms, chrysanthemums, and Mount Fuji. More than half of the samurai swords in existence today were made during the New Sword period.

The following list shows some of the <u>leading smiths</u> of the early (Azuchi-Momoyama) part of this period. Titles or surnames are enclosed in parentheses:

Yamashiro Province	(Umetada) Myôju, (Shinano no Kami
	Kunihiro, Kuniyasu, (Deba Daijô
	Kunimichi, (Echigo no Kami) Kun
	tomo, (Ôsumi no Jô) Masahiro, (Is
	no Kami) Kanamichi, (Tamba no Kami
	Yoshimichi, (Etchû no Kami) Mas
	toshi, (Izumi no Kami) Kunisad
	(Kôchi no Kami) Kunisuke
Settsu Province	(Izumi no Kami) Kunisada, (Kôchi r
	Kami) Kunisuke, (Soboro) Sukehir
	(Tamba no Kami) Yoshimichi, (On
	no Kami) Tadatsuna, (Mutsu no Kami
	Kanemori
Mino Province	(Sagami no Kami) Masatsune, (Min
	no Kami) Masatsune, (Hôki no Kami
	Nobutaka, (Hidachi no Kami) Ujifus
Musashi Province	Hankei, Yasutsugu, (Musashi Daijô
	Korekazu
Ômi Province	Ippô
Iwashiro Province	Nagakuni, (Mutsu Daijô) Nagamichi
Rikuzen Province	(Yamashiro Daijô) Kunikane, (Yamat
	Daijô) Yasusada

John Yumoto's 1958 classic "*The Samurai Sword*" is one of the first books published in English on the subject of nihonto.

Above is a grouping of influential swordsmiths from the early Edo period.

Note that *Musashi Daijo Korekazu* was one of just three smiths from Musashi province (modernday Tokyo) that he singled out.

37



Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu

Kanbun Shinto no Keijyo wo Shimeshi Masame no Hadaai ni Kitaete Hanayaka na Choji Midare woYaki Edo Ishido Chu ni Ari Doukou no Kosei ga Arawareshi Tenkei Saku Nari

Kanbun era's shinto period shape with straight grain pattern (*masame-hada*) and gorgeous clove-shaped temper line (*choji-midare hamon*). Blade displays Edo Ishido school's characteristics and represents Korekazu's typical work.

Nagasa 2 shaku 3 sun 5 bu han ari kore (71.5cm)

Jizai Hinototori Chushou (February 2017) *Tanzan Hendoushiki* (Kaou) signed by Tanobe sensei with seal

Utsuri

Whitish reflective areas in the jihada forming a shadow-like pattern.

> beautiful tobiyaki droplets of clove blossom buds

a gorgeous *choji midare hamon* (clove-blossom temper line) with high yaki that extends to the *shinogi* (ridge line) kinsuji /kinsen

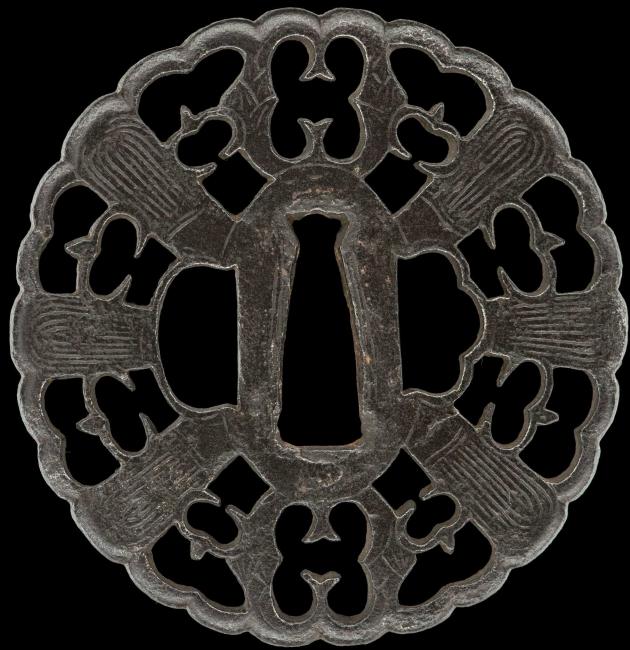
vigorous activity in the *hamon* sees *kinsen* (black lines) carving through *sunagashi* (streams of sand)

a paint brush of *sunagashi* flows into the *shinogi-ji*.





A subtle and stylish transition of the lacquer finish from *ishime* (stone) to smooth.



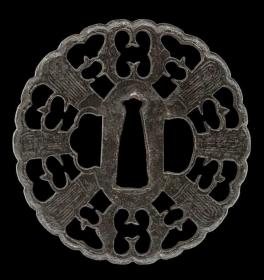
Tsuba

This is a *Kyo-sukashi* - a term to describe tsuba from Kyoto. It has been dated to the early Edo period (1600s), at the same time this Sakon Korekazu katana was crafted.

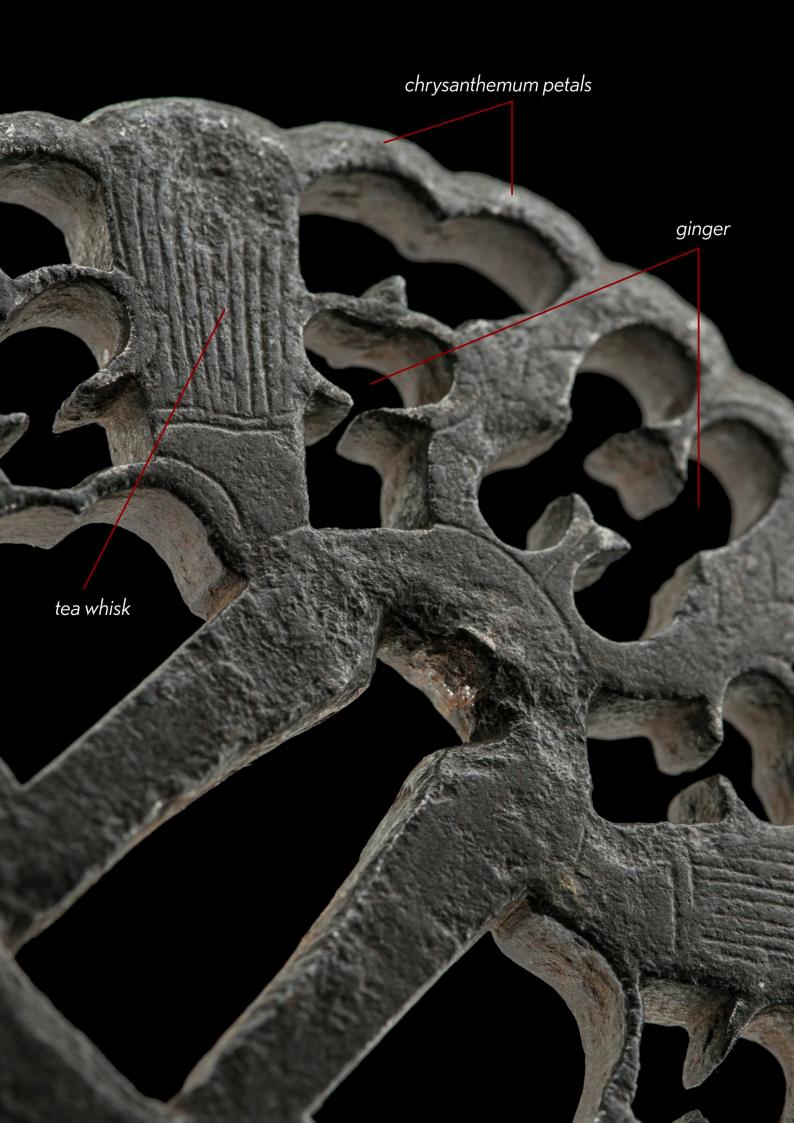
The unique design is of a *tea whisk* and *ginger*. The tsuba's shape is that of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum).

The Japanese word for ginger is *myoga* (茗荷), which has the same pronunciation as *myoga* (冥加), meaning "good luck". The Japanese love word play.

This tsuba is a lucky charm fit for nobility.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification







Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) display horse riding equipment.

Riding in a saddle was reserved for the samurai class until the end of the samurai era in 1868.



A uniquely designed *kiku* (chrysanthemum) silver *habaki* hugs the sword so it fits securely into the *saya* (scabbard).

The fan of petals are reminiscent of Japan's much celebrated rising sun.

black lacquered *samekawa* (skin of a ray fish)

in the second

alley an

Here.

A complimentary sword maintenance kit with *mekugi-nuki* and a bottle of *Fujishiro* sword oil (trusted by the Japanese sword museum) is included with all sword purchases.

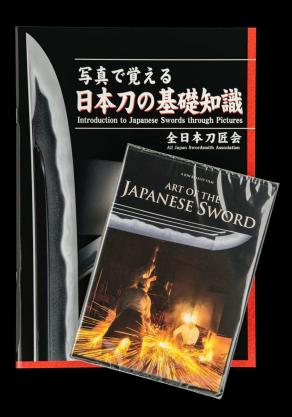


safe, extra large cloth for adding oil to the blade

Care and Protection

The maintenance kit also includes a large cloth to comfortably and safely rest the sword when viewing (for hours on end!).

And when the sword is not in hand, watch the Art of the Japanese Sword DVD or read the insightful sword picture book from the All Japan Swordsmith Association (also included free for clients).



40cm x 40cm cloth (in blue and white)





ITEM# UJKA243

A KUNITSUNE KATANA Signed, Early Edo Period (Manji Era: 1658-1661)

Swordsmith:	Kozuke no Kami Fujiward	a Kunitsune						
Measurements:	Length: 67.7cm (ubu)	Curvature: 1.8cm	Moto-haba: 3.2cm					
Jihada:	Itame and masame							
Hamon:	Gunome midare with togari, sunagashi and kinsuji							
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of							
Preservation by the S	Society for the Preservation of	the Japanese Art Sword)						
Certificate #2-3:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a	a koshirae and tsuba desig	gnated as Authentic by the					
Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)								
Cutting ability:	Wazamono (maker of sharp	swords)						
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, f	abric bags, stand, kit, I	OVD, booklet, description					

SOLD

Here's a mighty katana by *wazamono* swordsmith *Kozuke no Kami Kunitsune* who worked during the Manji era circa 1658-1661. Designed with great amount of curvature, this is a sword meant for a warrior to hold comfortably with one or two hands. A bright and consistent *gunome midare hamon* with classic Mino tradition *togari* peaks its way the length of the blade. This is a well-forged sword with particularly beautiful *masame hada* in the *shinogi-ji*.

An Edo period dragon-themed *koshirae* exudes a fighting spirit. Note the imposing crawling dragons for menuki wrapped in *katate-maki*. The lacquer on the scabbard is from the 1800s and is aging away in such a way that it appears like molten lava. Look for the hidden dragon within the scabbard! This katana is certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon with certificates for the *koshirae* and a unique early-Edo iron *tsuba* with curled edges by the *Aoki Kanesada* school.

\$ Saki-kasane: 4.8mm

Moto-kasane: 6.9mm

Omosa: 755g

Saki-haba: 2.2cm

Nakago: 19.7cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 67.7cm

Sori: 1.8cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: Kozuke no Kami (Gunma Prefecture) Swordsmith: Fujiwara Kunitsune

Ко

zuke

(no) kami

Fuji

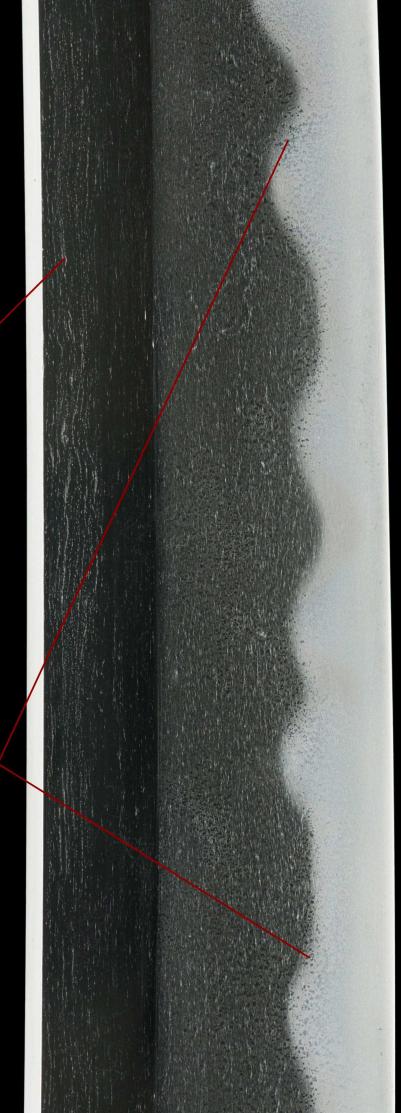
wara

Kuni

tsune

good flowing *masame-hada* (straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*

visible *nie* crystals penetrate the hamon.





mune-yaki (temper along the spine)

A tight *gunome midare hamon* (temper line with random waves) with pointed peaks of *togari* slices its way through the sword.

togari



Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



Koshi Yujo Yasuri-habaki (silver)







Tsuba

This large and handsome quinceshaped polished iron guard is specially designed with curled edges.

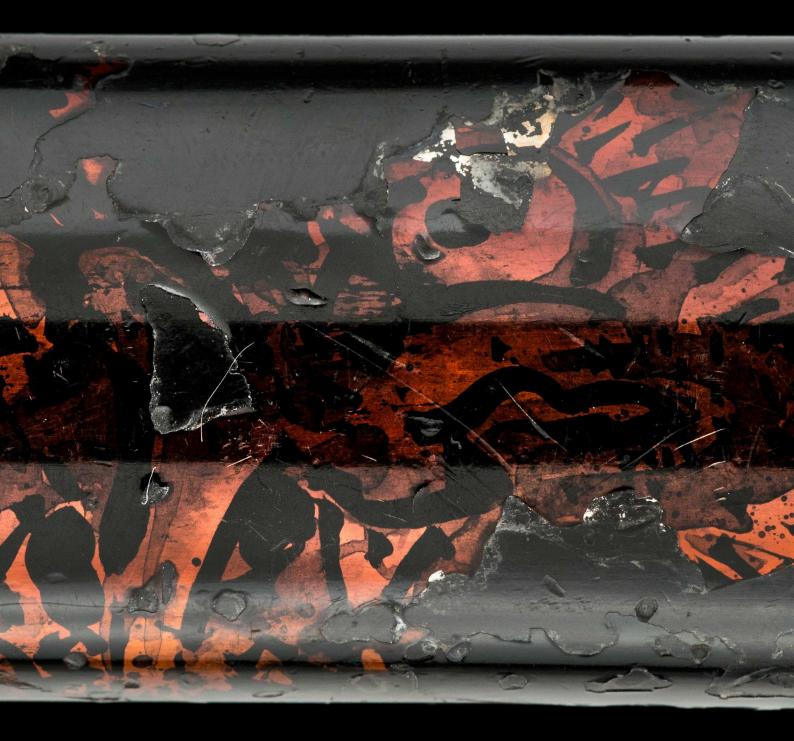
Looking closely at the design, a boat emerges at the bottom corner while a mountain scene is seen above.

The tsuba is attributed to Yamashiro province *Aoki Kanesada* who worked in the early Edo period, mid 1600's.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification





The lacquered remains of the face of a dragon gazes through the saya (scabbard).



Menuki (decorative grips) feature imposing crawling dragons piercing through the silk for an extra tight grip. This wrap is called *katate-maki* - specially designed for one-handed use.





life experience.





ITEM# UJKA245

A YASUTSUNA KATANA Signed, Early Edo Period (Kanbun Era: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith:	Awa no Kami Yasutsuna / crafted near a castle in Osaka		
Measurements:	Length: 70.3cm	Curvature: 1.5cm	Moto-haba: 3.0cm
Jihada:	Itame with masame, tobiyaki and light utsuri		
Hamon:	Bright choji midare and koshibiraki with sunagashi, plentiful nie		
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of		
Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)			
Certificate #2-3:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a koshirae and tsuba designated as Authentic by the		
Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)			
Authenticity	Sayagaki by Dr. Sato Kanzan (former director of the NBTHK)		
Included:	Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description		

SOLD

Accomplished swordsmith *Yasutsuna* worked in the *Yasuhiro branch* of the *Kii Ishido School* that draws their inspiration from swords of the Koto period *Bizen Ichimonji School*. He was a traveller, dividing his time in *Kii province* (Wakayama) and in the flourishing city of Osaka. In fact, Yasutsuna engraved on the nakago that he crafted this particular katana near a castle in Osaka.

There is a feeling of great creative pride within this sword. The *hamon* is a vibrant *choji-midare* with hints of *koshibiraki* and *utsuri* in the *hada*. Lovely flowing *masame-hada* in the *shinogi-ji*. The *koshirae* features *kikyo* (bellflower) and an early Edo period *Heianjo-zogan tsuba*. Certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon with *sayagaki* authentication by Dr. Kanzan Sato from February 1973, this elegant katana has been cherished for centuries and deserves a thoughtful caretaker.

\$ Saki-kasane: 5.0mm

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Omosa: 680g

Saki-haba: 1.9cm

Nakago: 19.5cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 70.3cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: *Awa no Kami* (Tokushima Prefecture) Swordsmith: *Yasutsuna*

А

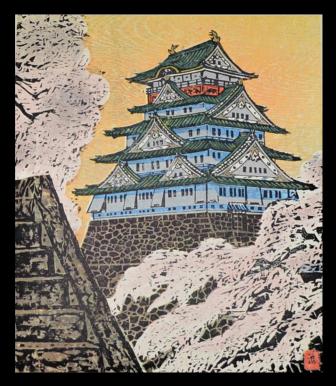
wa

(no) kami

Yasu

tsuna

Oite Sesshu Joka Tsukuru Kore (crafted near a castle in Osaka)

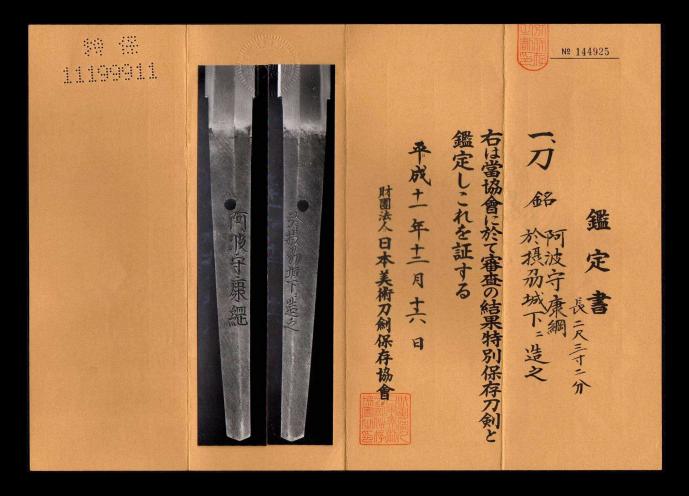


Swordsmith *Awa no Kami Yasutsuna* worked in both *Kii province* (Wakayama) and in *Sesshu* (Osaka).

When signing the nakago of this katana Yasutsuna remarked that this sword was crafted near a castle in Osaka.

One can comfortably assume he referring to the great Osaka castle that was originally built in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

Oite Se sshu Jo ka Tsukuru Kore



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 11th year of Heisei (1999), December 16th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Awa no Kami Yasutsuna Oite Sesshu Joka Tsukuru Kore

Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 2-bu (70.3cm)

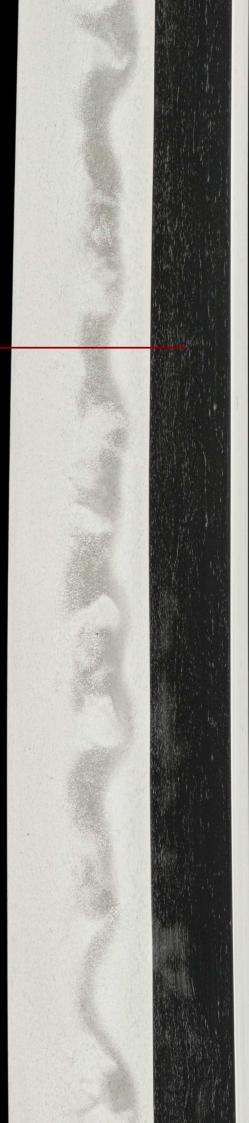
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

Koshibiraki hamon

Koshi means 'waist'. Some areas of the hamon carry this type of temper line that is synonymous with the Bizen tradition. The *koshi* areas of the hamon widen before and after a peak.

Osaka-yakidashi

The beginning of the hamon is called the *yakidashi*. When the yakidashi is straight and widens upward from the base, it is said to have *Osaka yakidashi* - a key feature of swords from the area.



Beautifully forged *masame-hada* (straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*

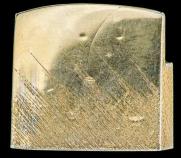
Utsuri

Whitish reflective areas in the jihada near the *shinogi*.

Bold and bright.

tobiyaki (temper spots in the ji) In true *Kii Ishido school* form, the billowing *choji-midare* (clove blossoms) extends the width of the blade, known as "*high yaki*".





Koshi Yujo Yasuri habaki

A wa (no) kami Yasu tsuna

Nagasa 2 shaku 3 sun 2 bu arikore (70.3cm)

Showa Mizunoto Kisaragi (February 1973)

Kanzan (Kaou) signed by Kanzan sensei with seal





Tsuba

This tsuba was crafted by the *Heianjo-Zogan school* during the 1600s.

The brass-inlay sukashi design is that of *Tomoe* believed to depict the threefold division of *Man, Earth, and Sky* at the heart of the Shinto belief system of universal life balance.

This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.





reverse



lkebana

The *menuki* (decorative grips) portray an Ikebana arrangement.

Ikebana is a form of floral artistry, aesthetically pleasing yet so much more than just a flower arrangement.

Central to the idea of Ikebana is unity-indiversity. Living materials, free to grow and change, form unique interdependent structures that emulate the way nature works.

Minimal materials, in every stage of life, reveal core diversity, asking us to look closer, to notice and appreciate.

No two flowers, leaves or branches are the same. Nature doesn't fit into set categories.

As part of nature, neither do we.

Each Ikebana creation conveys this principle by finding its own delicate balance within the symbiotic thread of life.

Bellflower

Commonly known as 'balloon flower' due to its balloon-shaped flower buds, the bellflower (*kikyo*) has been a popular flower among samurai families for centuries.

It is said to symbolize unchanging love, honesty, and obedience.



kashira (pommel)



When we acquire swords, there are subtle clues that speak to the attention that the sword may have enjoyed over it's lifetime.

The elegant handmade sword bag that protects the koshirae has a tasteful design pattern that emanates a feeling that this katana was greatly loved by its previous caretaker. Sky's the limit.



Thinking about how to best display?

Clients can select from one of three types of complimentary sword stands to proudly showcase their work of art.



traditional double-hook black wood sword stand



acrylic 'floating' type



small stand for tanto





ITEM# UJKA246

A YOSHIHARA KUNIIE TACHI

SIGNED & DATED, 9TH YEAR OF HEISEI PERIOD (1997) DISPLAYED AS MUKANSA-LEVEL PIECE IN A MODERN SWORD EXHIBITION

Swordsmith: Measurements: Jihada: Hamon: Engraving: Awards: Included: Musashi Ju Kuniie (third generation, Yoshihara Shoji)Length: 77.6cmCurvature: 2.6cmItame hada, tobiyaki and shirake utsuriGorgeous gunome choji midare with yo, crafted in the Bizen traditionFull length bo-hi (groove)Mukansa-level swordsmith (top rank, without judgement)Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

Modern-day master swordsmith *Yoshihara Shoji* is the grandson of *Kuniie*, son of Masahiro, and the younger brother of *Yoshihara*. He is the *third-generation Kuniie* swordsmith.

This glorious *tachi*, crafted in the Bizen tradition, possesses majestic curvature and shape that is reminiscent of the great works of the Kamakura period. The sword was displayed in a 1997 exhibition of modern swords as a *mukansa-level* art piece. Kuniie sensei is a *City of Tokyo Intangible Cultural Asset* and has earned countless awards and accolades. This awe-inspiring sword carries a spectacular *gunome choji midare hamon* that renders one justifiably speechless.

✿ Saki-kasane: 6.0mm

Moto-kasane: 8.8mm

Omosa: 1,006g

Saki-haba: 2.5cm

Moto-haba: 3.5cm

Nakago: 23.2cm



Nagasa: 77.6cm

Sori: 2.6cm

Sori: 4.5cm (to nakago)

Mekugi-ana: 1



Location: *Musashi* (Tokyo) Swordsmith: *Kuniie*



Mu sashi Ju Kuni ie Saku



Heisei Teichu Nen (1997) Shinsaku-to Ten Mukansa Shuppin Saku Nari

This sword was displayed at a modern sword exhibition as a Mukansa-level entry.

Yoshihara Kuniie has been designated *City of Tokyo Intangible Cultural Asset* and serves as the executive director of the All Japan Swordsmith Association.

Kuniie was awarded the the highest rank of *mukansa* (without judgment) in 1982.

His accolades are numerous:

- * Bunkacho Director's Award three times
- * NBHTK Hon. Chairman Award three times
- * The Kunzan Award
- * The Kanzan Award
- * The Award for Excellence twice

As Yoshihara Kuniie is still alive and working, sword preservation societies such as the NBTHK and NTHK-NPO, by policy, do not award certificates of authenticity/designation.

STREED AND

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別

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We, of course, guarantee the authenticity of the tachi. Once Kuniie sensei is no longer with us, sending the sword back to Japan for a preservation certificate is a process that we can assist with for the new owner.







Born in 1894, first generation Yoshihara Kuniie's given name is **Yoshihara Katsukichi**.

He trained both his grandsons Yoshindo and Shoji.

During WW II, he assumed the role of training the *Jumei-Tosho* (Imperial Army Swordsmiths) at the first arsenal of the Army in Tokyo.

In 1941, he won the "Special Honor Seat" in the cutting test category.





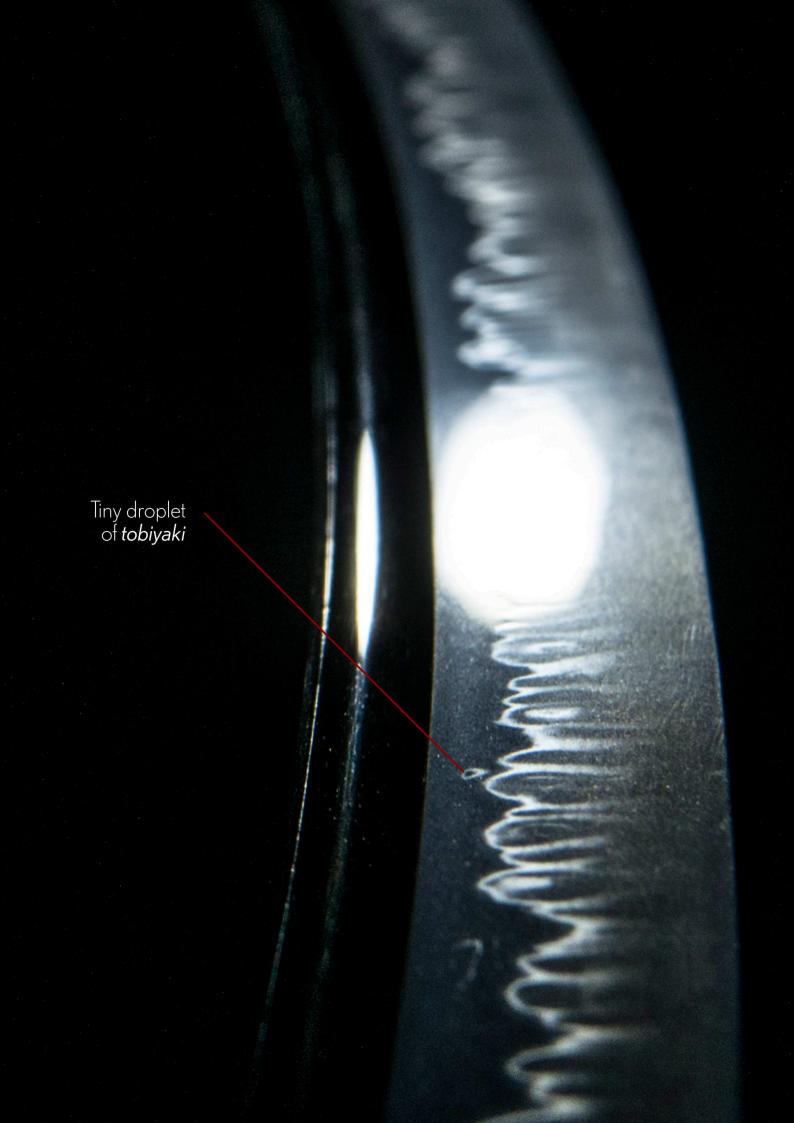
Shirake utsuri

Thin whitish cloud in the jihada near the *shinogi*.

A vibrant *gunome choji midare hamon*, a temper line resembling clove blossom buds cascades along the steel.



Yo (leaves) are beautiful clusters of nie crystals inside the hamon.



Tanto Ikkan The Modern Bizenden Tradition Technique - Swordsmith Kuniie Yoshihara

In 2014, QUEST Co., Ltd produced a 31-minute DVD following *Yoshihara Kuniie (Shoji)* through every major step in the creation of a Japanese tachi. *The completed tachi is remarkably similar to the one available in our catalogue*. It is a fascinating and informative documentary to see how such a sword is made from start to finish. I also enjoyed taking a peek into the jovial and rather humble personality of this modernday master swordsmith. Below are some screenshots from the film. This DVD (which has English subtitles) will be included with the sword for the new caretaker to enjoy and further appreciate the craftsmanship that went into its creation. - PVK



(front cover)



(back cover)











Bizen brilliance.

THE



Flying into Japan?

If you are travelling to Tokyo and would like to acquire an authentic Japanese sword, be sure to book a **private meeting** with us in advance.

Many swords every year are sold this way to happy clients around the world. Contact **service@uniquejapan.com** where we'll discuss the type of sword, age and other special qualities you are seeking along with budget parameters. Meetings are held at our studio in near JR Ebisu station.





ITEM# UJKA247

A YASUMITSU KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD, EIKYO ERA (1429-1441)

Swordsmith:	Bishu Osafune Yasumitsu (Nidai, 2nd generation)	
Measurements:	Length: 66.3cm (<i>suriage nakago</i>) Curvature: 1.5cm Moto-haba: 2.8cm	
Jihada:	Itame and masame hada with gorgeous midare utsuri	
Hamon:	Bright gunome choji-midare with koshibriaki, sunagashi and kinsen	
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as a sword Especially Worthy of	
Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)		
Certificate #2-5:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword, tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated as	
Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)		
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)	
Cutting ability:	Wazamono (maker of sharp swords)	
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description	

SOLD

Maestro swordsmith *Yasumitsu* is the son of first generation *Uemonnojo Yasumitsu* who, together with *Morimitsu* and *Moromitsu*, are the famous *Oei San Mitsu* - the three Mitsu's of the *Oei era* from the early Muromachi period. It is in this period that the *uchigatana* begins to evolve from the horseback ridden *tachi*. This sword exhibits all the qualities that make fine blades of the koto period so captivating. The stunning *bo-utsuri* on the blade is 600-year-old Bizen magic.

An elegant Edo-period koshirae accompanies the sword with a dragon *Yoshioka school tsuba* and a rooster *fuchi-kashira* by *Omori Hideuji*. This is a highly collectible samurai sword that radiates class and stature. Five certificates of authenticity accompany this rare and brilliant work of art.

\$ Saki-kasane: 4.2mm

Moto-kasane: 6.5mm

6.5200

Nakago: 14.2cm

Omosa: 480g

Saki-haba: 2.8cm

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Nagasa: 66.3cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Mekugi-ana: 3

0

.

Ö



Bi

Bi shu Osa fune Yasu mitsu Province: **Bishu** Village: **Osafune** Swordsmith: **Yasumitsu**

Nidai Yasumitsu is the son of the famous Bizen three "*mitsu's*" (others being *Moromitsu* and *Morimitsu*) of the Oei era during the early Muromachi period.

The work of both generations of Yasumitsu are equally highly skilled and challenging to differentiate.

Yasumitsu is rated *Jo-saku* (superior smith) and *wazamono* for good cutting ability.

Yasumitsu swords feature a well-forged mixture of itame hada and o-hada.

Gorgeous **bo-utsuri** (vivid shadow line in the ji) lights up the katana.

Gunome choji with koshibiraki

A koto period Bizen dynamo, this eclectic hamon has wavy clove blossom buds with areas that widen called *koshibiraki*.

choji (cloves)

a spot of **tobiyaki**





Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



Niju-habaki (brass)







Unique zen-like swirls ripple along the saya...









Tsuba

Beautiful *shakudo nanakoji* (punched 'dotted' work) with a fabulous depiction of a dragon slithering around the *mimi* (rim) of the tsuba.

This tsuba has been attributed to the highly respected *Yoshioka Inaba no Suke school*, crafted during the late Edo period, mid-1800s.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification

The Yoshioka School, like the Goto family, was a high-ranking kinko school that worked exclusively for the Tokugawa family and other high-ranking daimyo families.

The founder and first generation of the Yoshioka family of kinko artists was *Shigetsugu*, born in Kyoto in 1569.





Menuki (decorative grips) feature rising phoenix within leaves.

The mythical phoenix (*Hou*) was adopted as a symbol of the imperial household. The phoenix represents fire, the sun, justice, obedience and fidelity.



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This is the *torokusho* (registration card) for the Yasumitsu katana. The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (November 1951) in Hokkaido.

This is significant as 1951 was the very first year that swords were formally registered in Japan. Many former Daimyo families were invited to submit their collections suggesting this blade was once held by a prominent family.

The serial number is just 3854, one of the very first swords registered in Japan.

This beautiful fuchi-kashira is signed by *Hideuji* from the famed *Omori school* circa mid-1700s. A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO accompanies the fuchi-kashira.







2017

Year of the Rooster

The rooster is celebrated for its courage and honesty. This *fuchi-kashira* demonstrates how the rooster is fiercely protective of his hen and chick.

Roosters are said to bring luck and good fortune.





ITEM# UJWA209

A HIDETOKI WAKIZASHI Signed, Early Edo Period (Shoho Era: 1644-1648)

Swordsmith:	Yamashiro no Kami Hidetoki (Shodai, first generation)
Location:	Settsu province (Osaka)
Length:	53.8cm (ubu)
Curvature:	0.6cm
Jihada:	Koitame
Hamon:	<i>Gunome midare and kobushigata choji (wavy temper line with fist-shaped cloves)</i>
Certificate:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of
Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)	
Fujishiro:	Chu-Josaku (ranked as an above average swordsmith)
Cutting ability:	Wazamono (maker of sharp swords)
Included:	Shirasaya, sword fabric bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, etc.

SOLD

Yamashiro no Kami Hidetoki originally hails from *Mino* province where he belonged to the *Toku in school*. He first travelled to *Owari* province where he refined his craft under the 3rd generation *Masatsune*.

This robust and sharp wakizashi was crafted by first generation *Shodai Hidetoki* who was active during the *Shoho era* (1644-1648). Hidetoki also worked temporarily in Edo while his successor, 2nd generation Hidetoki, moved and stayed there.

Featuring a bright and beautiful *gunome midare hamon* mixed with gorgeous *kobushigata choji* (fist-shaped clusters of clove blossoms) this wakizashi is a prime candidate for a custom koshirae project if desired by the new caretaker. Sword has recently attained NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon.

\$ Saki-kasane: 4.5mm

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 570g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

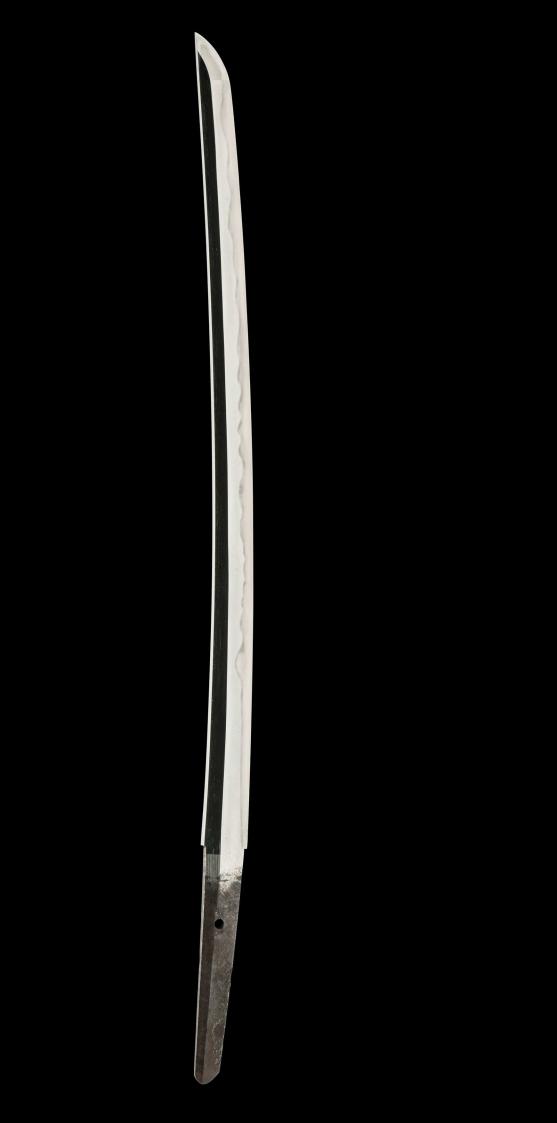
Nakago: 15.5cm

Moto-haba: 3.1cm

Nagasa: 53.8cm

Sori: 0.6cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: **Yamashiro no Kami** Swordsmith: **Hidetoki** (first generation)

Yama

shiro

(no) kami

Hide

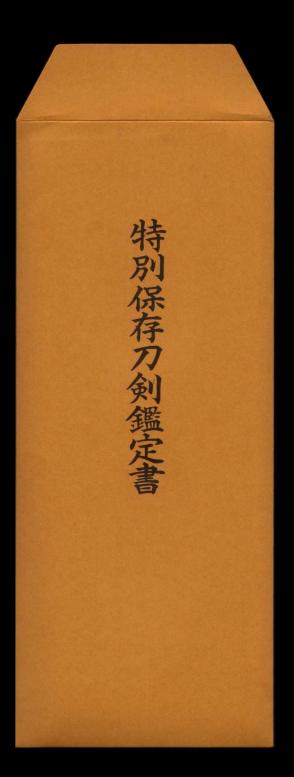
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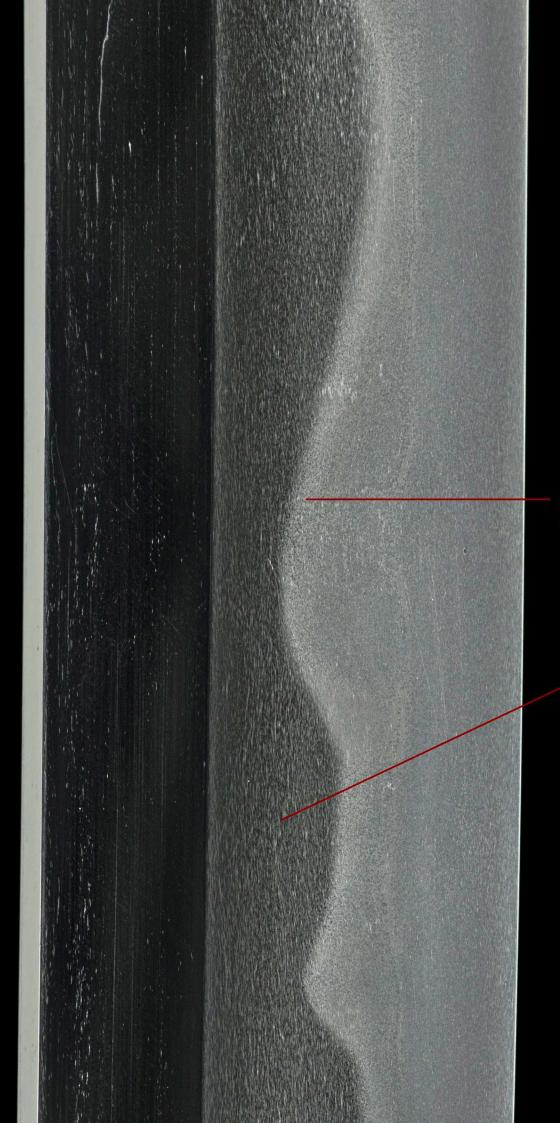
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

This sword has been designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Yamashiro no Kami Hidetoki

Official certificate is arriving in Spring 2017





a clear and consistent nioguchi (crystals that make up the hamon)

well-forged *ko-itame*

A striking gunome midare kobushigata choji hamon, a wavy temper line with fist-shaped clusters of clove blossom buds

kobushigata-choji (fist-shaped clove blossoms)

sunagashi (streams of sand)

gunome with togari points (showing Mino influence)



Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



Kiku Shomon Niju-habaki (brass, chrysanthemum marks)

handcrafted brilliance

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Steps to Building Your Own Koshirae

Many fine antique Samurai swords today come stored only in a shirasaya. A shirasaya acts like a humidor, protecting the steel for the long term. Just as the Samurai would have custom ordered during the Edo Period we can build a traditional set of outdoor koshirae (sword mounts) for your sword.

Step 1: Choose your sword (find the sword that chooses you) Step 2: Select your antique fittings & colours (decide on a theme that speaks to you and your sword) Menuki (arips) Choose your colours Kashira (hilt, sageo, scabbard) (pommel) Tsuba (quard) Fuchi (collar) Citer Stall

Step 3: Patience...

(it takes about 3-6 months to build as it is handmade by master craftsmen in Japan) Total production cost ranges from \$2,500 ~ \$5,000 Please speak to a member of the Unique Japan team to get started!





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This catalogue is dedicated to our fellow warrior, Jørgen. Forever in our memory.

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