



**JAPANESE SWORD** CATALOGUE 30.5

> **RELEASED:** Nov 20/2018

#### (COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA304

A TIGER ROARS ON THE TSUBA OF A VERY RARE TAMESHIGIRI KATANA BY ECHIZEN KUNITSUNA









# ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE (VOLUME 30.5)

RELEASED: NOVEMBER 20, 2018 TO VIP CLIENTS ONLY

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGES OF GENUINE ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS THAT WERE SOLD IN CATALOGUE 29. THIS IS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

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#### Hello everyone!

Shorter days and cooler nights - the holiday season is approaching and our home is growing in excitement and anticipation. Happy Thanksgiving to all those celebrating in the US.

Thank you for downloading Catalogue 30. This is a proud landmark for UJ, and I want to thank everyone who has been a part of this journey. It's a great pleasure to serve you. There are five katana (one on hold) and four wakizashi on offer in this catalogue. Each with a great story to tell.

We begin with a beautiful katana by the *Fujishima school* from the early to *mid-Muromachi* period, circa 1400s. The *hadamono jihada* on this sword is vibrant and eye-catching. This unique style of forging was specifically engineered for the frigid temperatures of the provinces that border the Sea of Japan. Stronger, better flex and sharper. This katana comes with a handsome warrior-themed *koshirae*.

The following sword is a super powerful katana by *Hiroshige* of the *Shitahara school*. This sword has left a big-time impression on me. Constructed in an *unokubi-zukuri* (neck of a cormorant) shape, the balance of this sword is incredible. This is a samurai sword for battle. A great katana to build a koshirae for.

An elegant, Edo period katana by *Kuniyoshi* is next on the list. This sword is like a sharp tuxedo, full of class. It has lovely curvature, a bright *ko-gunome hamon* that bends the light beautifully. This katana is protected in a black-lacquered *koshirae* with a *Choshu tsuba* and dragon *fuchi-kashira* signed by *Seijo*.

A very intense katana by *Kunitsuna* is our cover sword for this catalogue. This sword went through a rare *tameshigiri tachi-kesa* cutting test on a *live convicted criminal* whereby tester *Sen'a* severed his body diagonally in one stroke. A second cutting test was further performed across his body on an earthen mound. The rarity of this sword cannot be overstated. A striking Edo-period koshirae with a fierce tiger and dragon *Masachika tsuba* and a uniquely *tsugaru*-lacquered scabbard finishes it off perfectly.

A spectacular 62nd *Juyo token* katana from attributed to *Nakajima-Rai* the final katana. The *Nakajima-Rai* branch of the Rai school earned its nickname after *Rai Kuninaga*, student of *Kunitoshi* travelled from Kyoto to the *Nakajima district* in the *Osaka* area at the very end of the Kamakura period. This katana is a masterclass of the strength and sophistication the *Nambokucho* period represents. Sword is on hold.

The catalogue switches gears from katana to wakizashi starting with a sharp *shobu-zukuri* attributed to *Kanenobu* from the end of the late *Muromachi* period. Deep valleys of an *o-gunome hamon* shines so bright. A matching *koshirae* with a unique *saya* that looks like tree-bark looks awesome on display.

A wonderful *sunnobi tanto* signed by *Nobuyoshi* is the following sword that is charming in every way. Look for the bright, wavy hamon on nagare-hada that flows like a stream. The fittings form a tribute to the beauty of nature and features a tsuba that is designed after the majestic *Kami-iso* shrine.

We complete the catalogue with a rare and collectible wakizashi jointly crafted by *shinshinto* maestro *Koyama Munetsugu* and *Kosugi Sukenaga* - a top-ranking *samurai official* and trusted advisor to the *Doi* family of the *Koga* fief. Making this meaty wakizashi even more impressive is that it was used in a *tameshigiri* cutting test with *Goto Gosaburo* in which it severed the body of a convicted criminal in one stroke. The *nakago* of this sword was published in a book by *Mitsuo Shibata*.

Thank you as always for your genuine support and passion for life. My team and I look forward to serving you. Happy holidays and my warmest regards.



Pablo Kuntz November 2018



## INDEX OF AVAILABLE JAPANESE SWORDS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	$\mathbf{CM}$	CERTIFICATE	ERA/PERIOD	PRICE
ujka079	A FUJISHIMA KATANA	71.2	NBTHK Hozon	Muromachi (1400s)	SOLD
ujka197	A HIROSHIGE KATANA	65.1	Tokubetsu Hozon	Kan'ei era (1624~1673)	SOLD
ujka294	A KUNIYOSHI KATANA	63.1	NBTHK Hozon	Keian era (1648~1652)	SOLD
ujka304	A KUNITSUNA KATANA	76.2	Tokubetsu Hozon	Keian era (1648~1652)	SOLD
ujka317	A NAKAJIMA-RAI KATANA	72.1	JUYO TOKEN	Nambokucho (~1346)	SOLD
ujwa079	A KANENOBU WAKIZASHI	37.3	NTHK Kanteisho	Tenbun (1532~1555)	SOLD
ujwa228	A NOBUYOSHI WAKIZASHI	31.4	Tokubetsu Kicho	Keian era (1648~1652)	SOLD
ujwa234	A MUNETSUGU WAKIZASHI	44.4	Tokubetsu Hozon	Tenpo era (1830~1844)	SOLD

#### ALL PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS

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### 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> **Inspection Period** 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# UJKA079

## A FUJISHIMA SCHOOL KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY TO MIDDLE MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA 1400'S)

**Swordsmith:** Fujishima School (attribution) **Location:** Kaga province (Ishikawa prefecture)

**Measurements:** Length: 71.24cm (o-suriage) Curvature: 1.55cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm

**Jihada:** Gorgeous hadamono mix of itame, mokume, masame with plentiful chikei

**Hamon:** Gunome-midare with kinsuji and sunagashi

**Certificate #1: NBTHK Hozon** (a sword Worthy of Conservation)

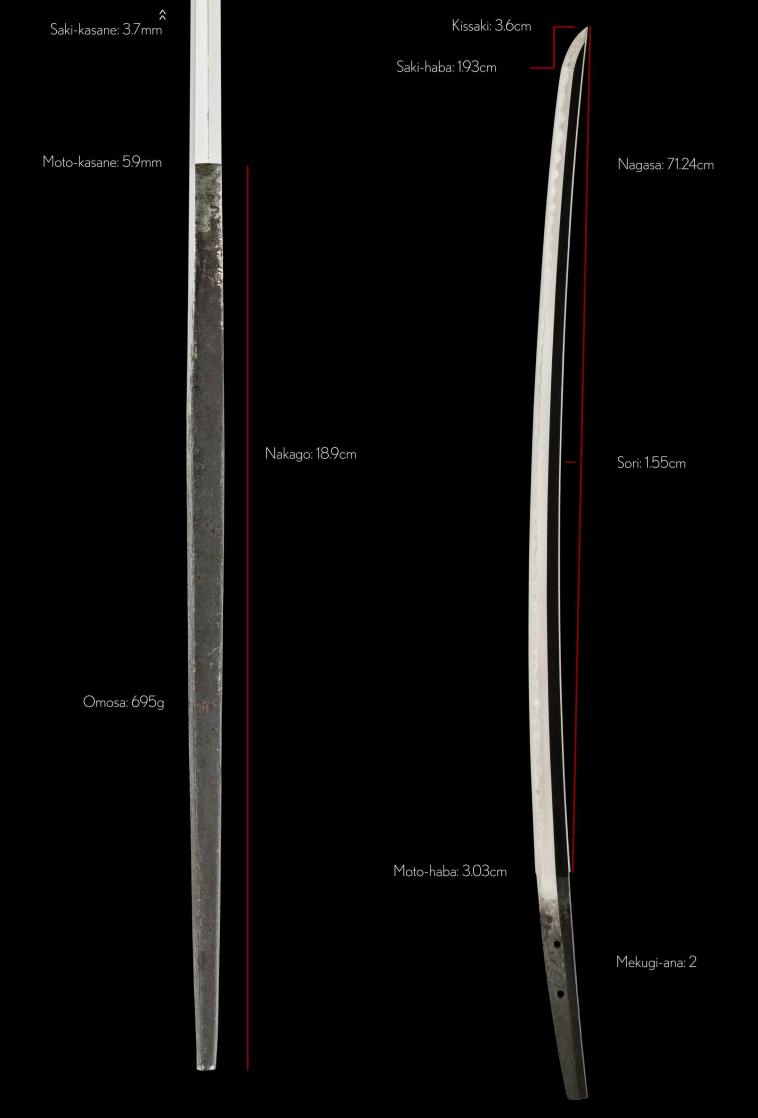
**Certificates #2-4: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic)

**Included:** Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

## **SOLD**

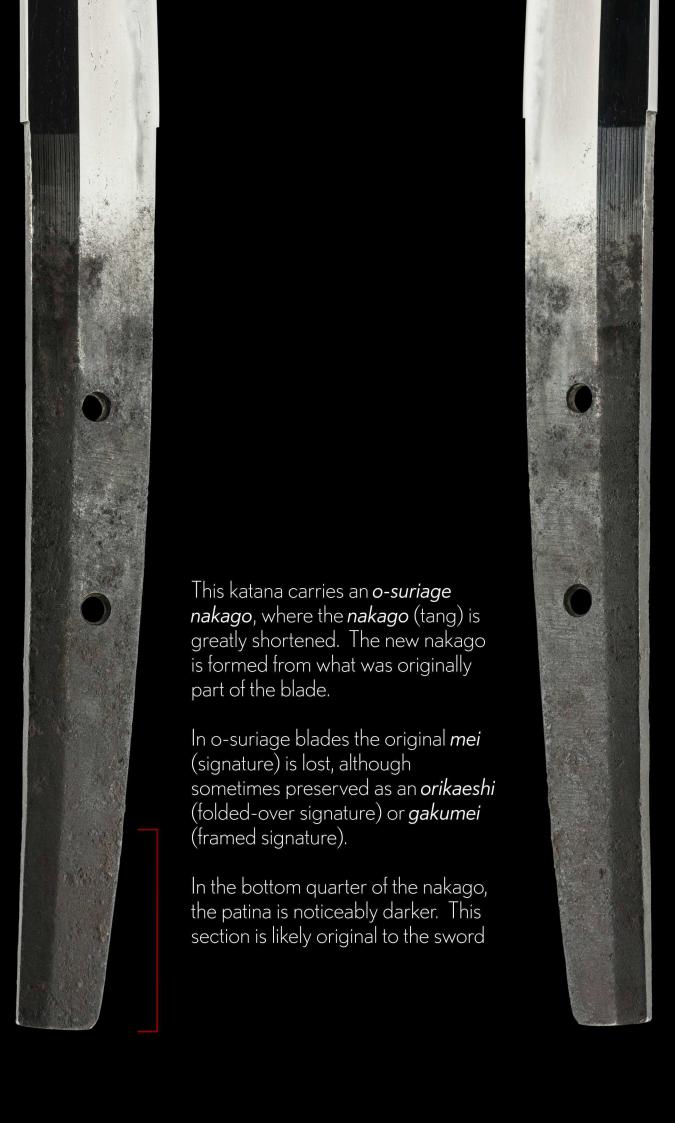
The *Fujishima school* began in the early 1400s with *Tomoshige* in Kaga province on the *Hokurikudo* trade route in the northern territory that faces the Sea of Japan. As the winters are long and harsh, swordsmiths needed to produce blades that would perform well in frigid temperatures. The result was a unique *jigane* called *hadamono* - a swirling mix of *itame*, *mokume*, *masame* and *o-hada* that proved superior in flexibility, strength and sharpness to tightly forged grain patterns.

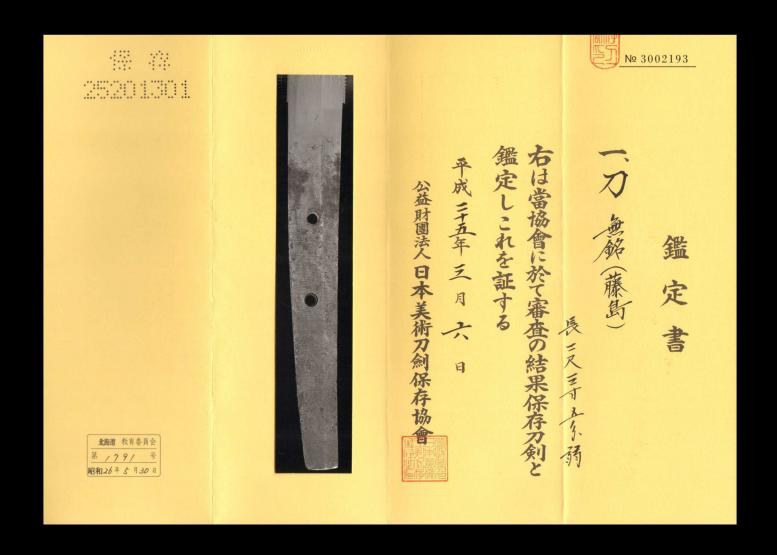
Complementing the eye-catching qualities of the steel is a handsome *mid-Edo period koshirae* with an *aoi-gai* lacquer finish and fittings with a warrior theme that speak to the fighting *Muromachi* period when this katana was surely used. This centuries-old soldier has great stories to share.



Fujishima is an area in Echizen province that the first generation of Tomoshige (circa 1394~1429) is said to have lived and then later moved to Kaga province.

The shape of this katana, with curvature moving towards the middle to upper section of the blade, speaks to the early Muromachi period.





# NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 25th year of Heisei (2013), March 6th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Mumei (Fujishima)

Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu jaku (71.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK) The Fujishima school was located in Kaga province on the Hokurikudo trade route in the northern territory that faces the Sea of Japan. Along with the Sanindo route, this area was known as Ura Japan.

The winters in Ura Japan are harsh and last much longer than other regions of the country. This required swordsmiths to produce blades that would perform well in frigid temperatures. Thus a *jigane* called *hadamono* was born. A swirling symphony of *itame*, *mokume*, *masame* and *o-hada* that 'stands out visibly to the eye' proved to be superior in *flexibility*, *strength* and *sharpness* compared to blades that had a finely forged grain pattern.

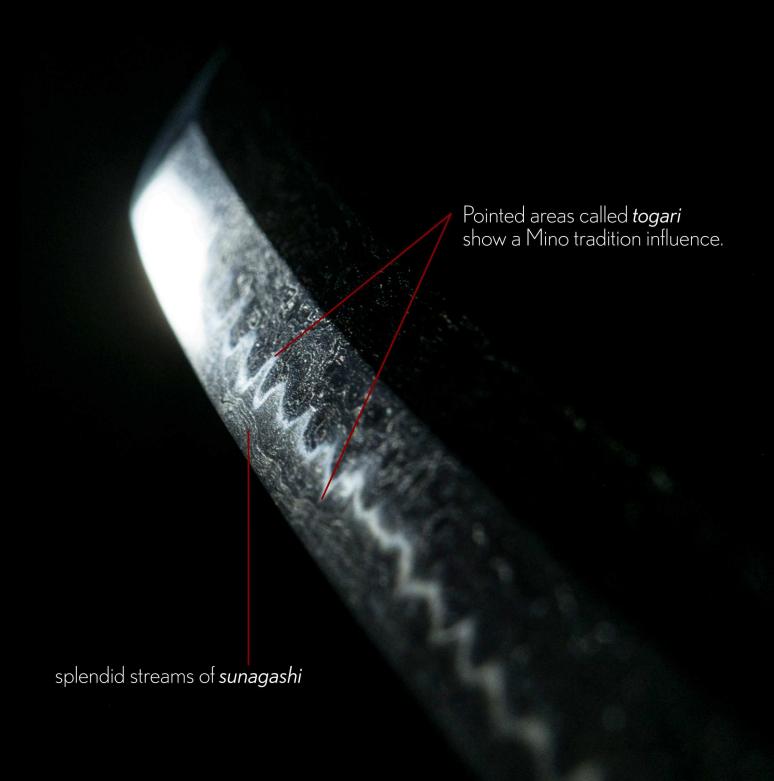
Go Yoshihiro and Norishige were two notable smiths from the region during the Kamakura period.







A rhythmic *gunome-midare hamon* pulses like a heartbeat.





Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



*niju habaki* gold wrapped over copper base with *kiri* straight file pattern

Aogai-mijin-nuri saya uchigatana-koshirae (青貝微塵塗鞘打刀拵え) Uchigatana-koshirae with saya featuring particles of mother-of-pearl Crafted during the Middle Edo period (1700~1780) NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity







This polished iron *tsuba* (guard) was originally crafted during the 1700s by a swordsmith, known as *Tosho*. The premise behind the *Tosho* attribution is that a swordsmith would forge a simple iron tsuba to accompany his newly made blade. The designs on Tosho tsuba have a charming simplicity, not fanciful.

The heart-shapes are called *inome* - meaning the *eye of a wild boar* or *inoshishi*. The *inoshishi* is known for it's single-minded focus, which the samurai greatly admired. For when it charges, it charges with a vengeance - never retreating.





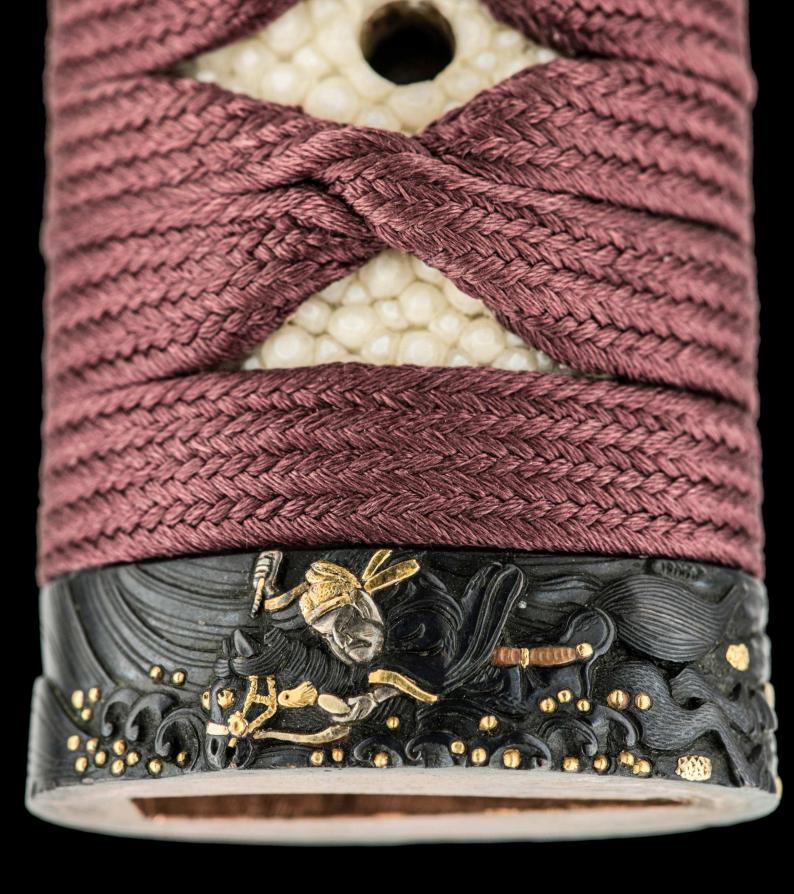




Guan Yu was a greatly admired general that served under the warlord Liu Bei in the late Eastern Han dynasty.

He played a significant role in the events that led to the end of the dynasty and the establishment of the state of **Shu Han** - founded by Liu Bei. Guan Yu died in 220AD.

The *kashira* (pommel) is skilfully made with precise detail paid to his armour. This kashira comes with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the work to the *Hamano school* from the late Edo period.



Pure commitment and focus.

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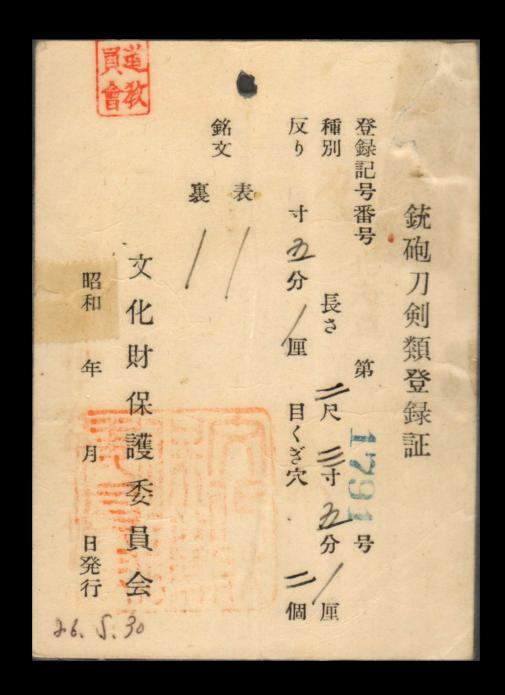




a traditional samurai *yumi* (bow) and *ya* (arrows) form the *menuki* grips







This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the Fujishima katana. The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (May 30, 1951).

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 1791, one of the very first swords registered in Japan.





ITEM# UJKA197

## A HIROSHIGE KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (CIRCA KAN'EI TO KANBUN 1624~1673)

**Swordsmith:** Bushu Shitahara Ju Hiroshige (attribution)

Construction: Unokubi-zukuri (shape of a cormorant's neck)

**Measurements:** Length: 65.1cm (*ubu-nakago*) Curvature: 1.5cm Moto-haba: 3.15cm

**Jihada:** Ko-mokume with masame, tobiyaki

Hamon: Notare with ko-gunome, clear nioguchi with kanitsume, kinsuji and sunagashi
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a Sword Especially Worthy of Conservation)

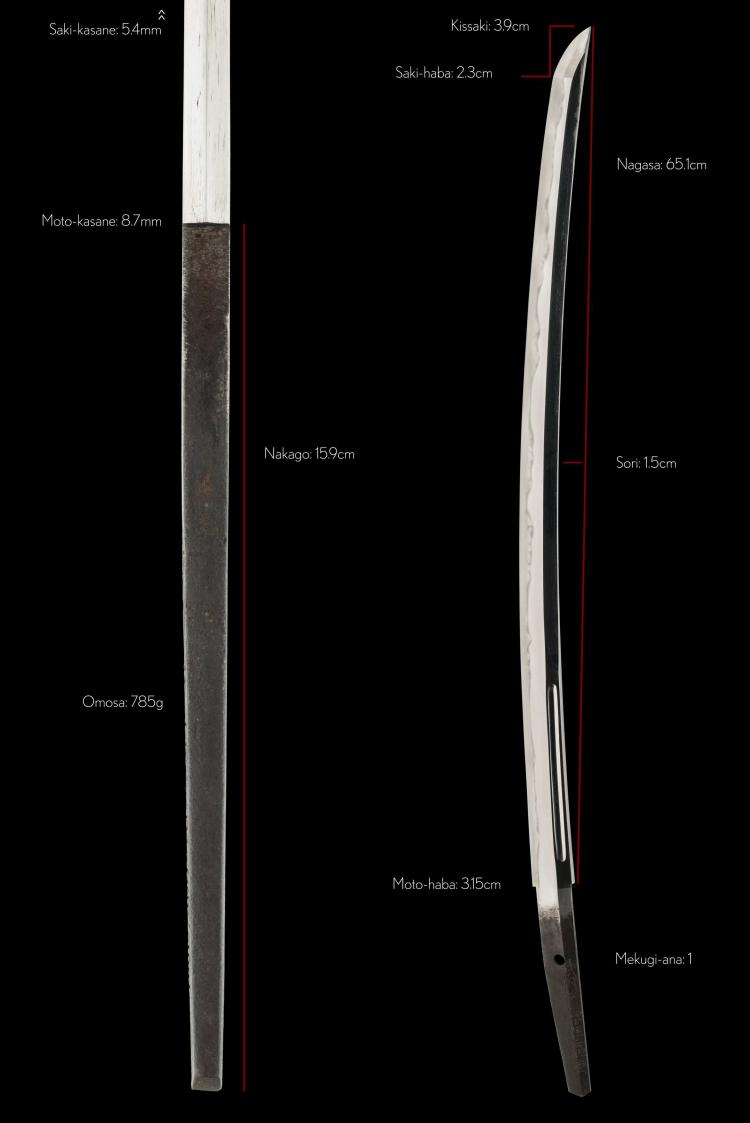
**Fujishiro:** Chu-Josaku (collectively ranked as above average swordsmiths)

**Included:** Shirasaya, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

## **SOLD**

Some swords simply *feel* invincible. Constructed in a rare *unokubi-zukuri* shape based on the great *naginata* pole arms of the warrior monks, this muscular katana by *Hiroshige* glides effortlessly in hands. This is due to the skillfully beveled spine that removes any excess weight. The *Shitahara school* has a reputation for producing powerful swords that samurai warrior class could trust with their lives. They are the only school that worked in Tokyo prior to the 1600s.

A clear *notare hamon* with bright spots of *tobiyaki* and *kanitsume* – areas that resemble the *claws of a crab* – offer an abundance of steely detail to admire. Look for the long stretch of *muneyaki* (tempering) along the spine by way of the *Soshu* tradition. A stunning custom koshirae was built for this charismatic katana in the **2019** *Year of the Wild Boar* theme of *inoshishi* (wild boar).



Swords forged by the *Shitahara school* have a reputation for being strong, invincible weapons for the samurai warrior class. They are the only school that worked in *Musashi* province (Tokyo) prior to the 1600s.

This very powerful *unokubi-zukuri* shaped blade can be dated from the *Kan'ei* era to the *Kanbun* era (circa 1624 to 1673).



Location: Bushu (Hachioji, Tokyo)

School: Shitahara

Swordsmith: *Hiroshige* 

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

katte-sagari

(right-handed, downward-slanting file marks)

Bu

shu

Shita

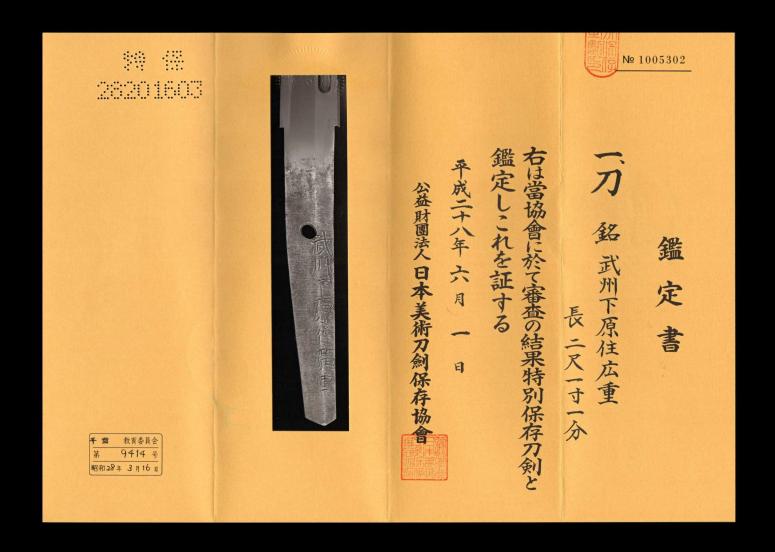
hara

Ju

Hiro

shige





# 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

Bushu Shitahara Ju Hiroshige

Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 1-sun 1-bu (65.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

#### Unokubi-zukuri

The unique shape of the sword is referred to as *unokubi-zukuri*, as it resembles the *neck of a cormorant* (bird). *U* means cormorant, *kubi* is neck, *zukuri* is shape.

Unokubi-zukuri, swords taper in the middle section of the shjinogi-ji and then widen in the top kissaki area. Blades with an unokubi zukuri shape often also feature naginata-hi which is a short koshi-bi.

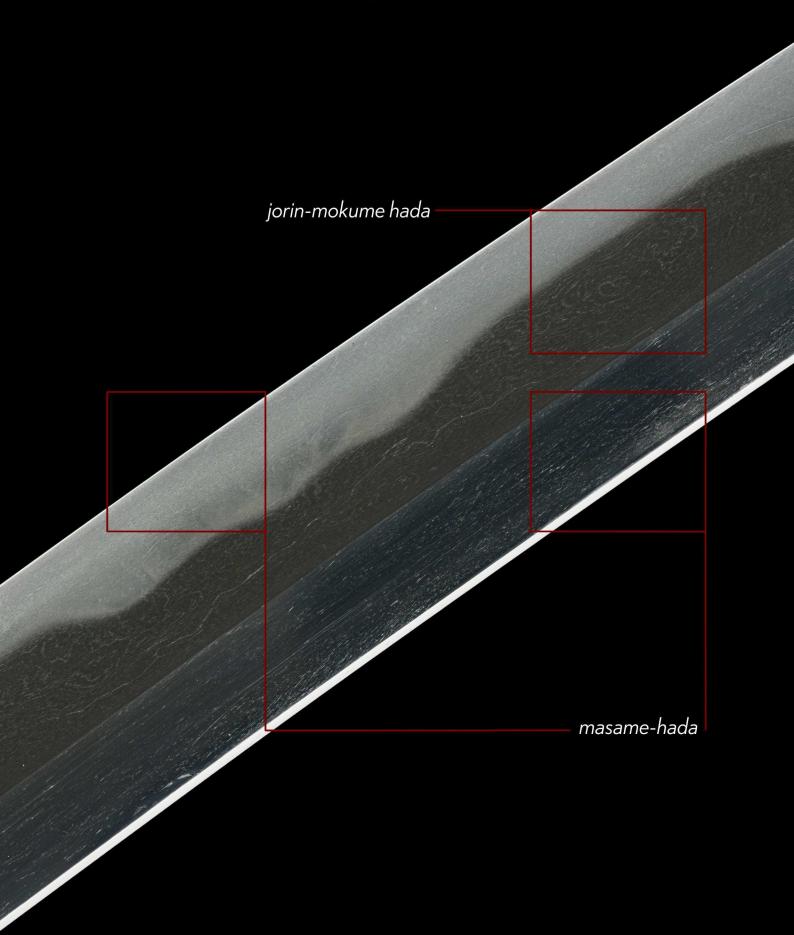
This geometry was initially designed to lighten the blade of a *naginata* while keeping its functionality intact.

Cormorants are expert swimmers and divers despite the fact they are buoyant. To overcome this hurdle, they swallow pebbles to make themselves heavy enough to stay under water. A testament to the saying, "if there is a will, there is a way."

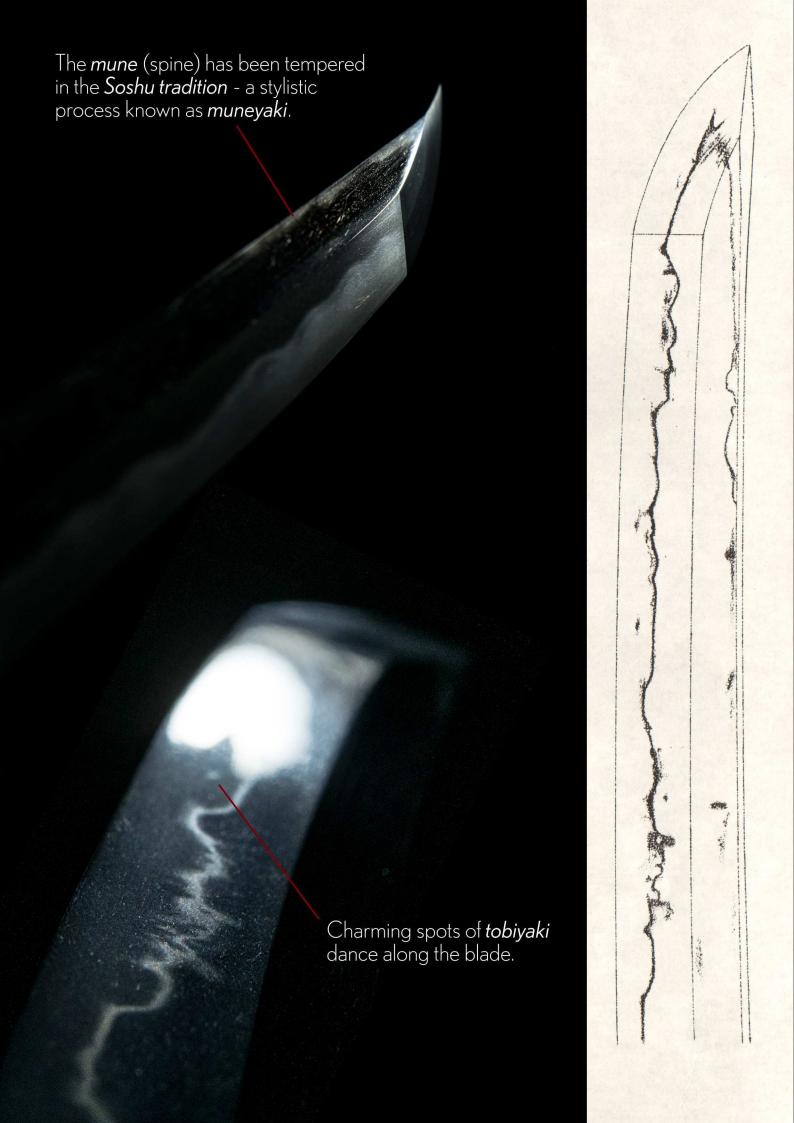


tapering ends unokubi-zukuri (cormorant's neck construction) tapering begins bo-bi + maru-dome (short groove with rounded end)

The magnificent *jihada* (surface grain) displays *jorin-moku* - prominent pools of concentric circles of *mokume* that resemble the annual rings of a tree. Beautiful *masame-hada* (straight grain) can also be seen in the *shinogi-ji* and towards the *ha* (cutting edge).









This brilliant katana pulsates with a *hamon* based on wavy *notare* mixed with *ko-gunome*, *tobiyaki* (spots) and a clear *nioguchi*.







Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



habaki gold wrapped over copper base with *kiri* straight file pattern

The completed *custom koshirae* in the theme of *Inoshishi*, commemorating 2019 as The Year of the Wild Boar.





## Your Custom Koshirae and Samurai Daisho



Many fine antique *samurai swords* today come stored in a *shirasaya* only. A shirasaya acts like a humidor, protecting the steel for the long term.

Just as the samurai would have ordered a custom *koshirae* (outdoor mounts) during the Edo period, you too can have a traditional set of koshirae crafted for your sword like a tailored suit in a theme that connects with your spirit.

At Unique Japan, we have proudly created dozens of custom koshirae projects for our clients over the years - each with their own style and energy.

The tsuka (hilt), saya (scabbard), samekawa (ray skin), silk, and lacquer are all handcrafted by skilled craftspeople in Japan. The tsuba, fuchi-kashira, menuki and other fittings are carefully sourced samurai antiques largely from the Edo period. This unique blend of modern life meeting traditional history is what makes each creation so personally rewarding for every client.

The investment required starts from \$4,000 depending on the quality and rarity of the fittings and the complexity of the lacquerwork.

Each custom koshirae project takes several months to complete properly. Contact Unique Japan on starting your personal koshirae journey.



(daisho: the official dress code for the samurai)







ITEM# UJKA294

#### A KUNIYOSHI KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KEIAN ERA: 1648~1652)

Swordsmith: Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi (attribution, Fujishiro: chū-saku)

**Measurements:** Length: 63.1cm (o-suriage nakago) Curvature: 2.0cm Moto-haba: 2.87cm

Jihada: Ko-mokume with masame-hada in the shinogi-ji Hamon: Bright ko-choji gunome with ashi in nie-deki

**Certificate #1: NBTHK Hozon** (a sword Worthy of Conservation)

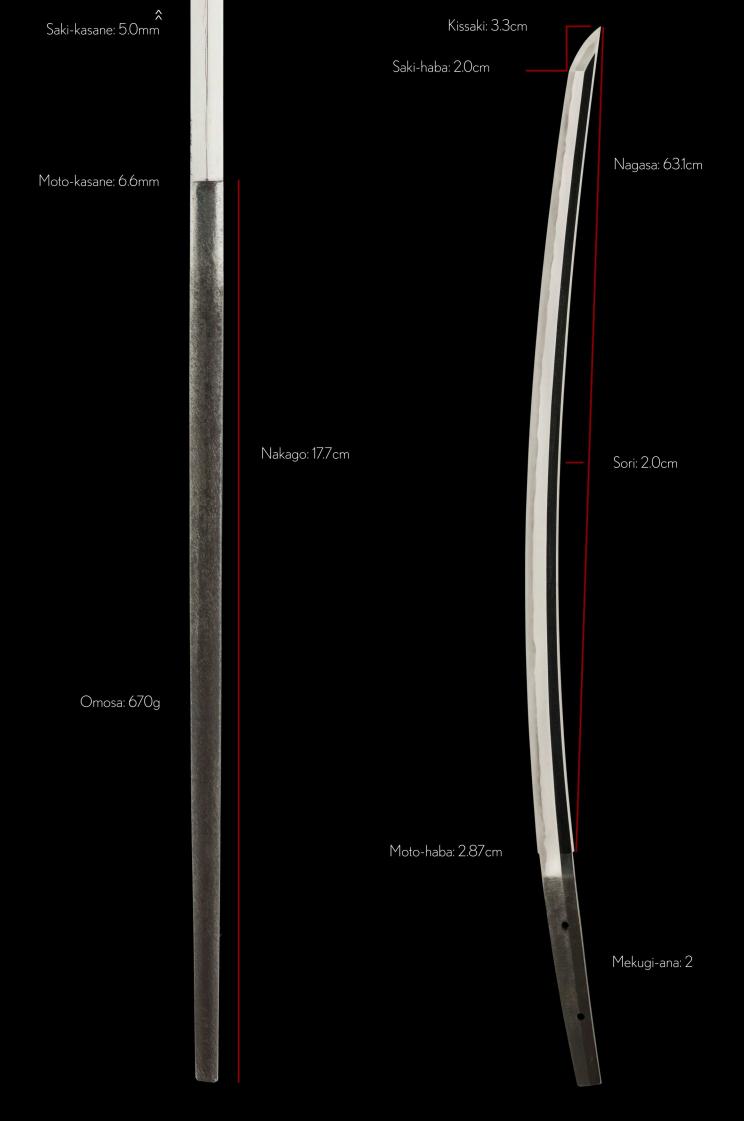
**Certificates #2-4: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic)

**Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

## **SOLD**

This elegant katana from the early Edo period has been attributed to swordsmith *Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi*. Born *Suzuki Sakunosuke* and raised in *Hyūga* province, Kuniyoshi moved to the cultural capital of *Kyoto* where he became a student of *Oya-Kunisada* (*shodai Kunisada*). He would later move to *Hamada* in *Iwami* province signing swords as *Nagatomo Sakunosuke Kuniyoshi*.

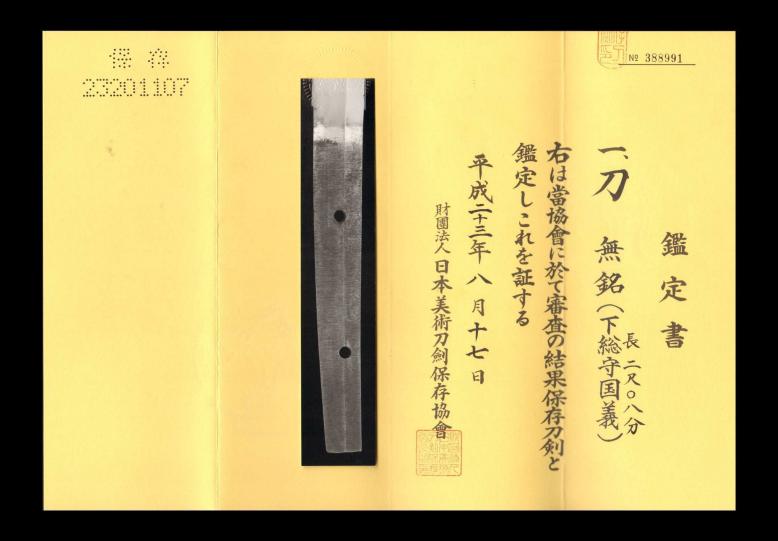
Good energy abounds within this clean, tightly forged blade with a bright, *ko-chogi gunome midare hamon* and fine *ashi* that extend to the cutting edge. A classic black-lacquered *saya* with high court aristocratic *sensu* (fans) for *menuki*, a peaceful castle scene on the *Tomonobu tsuba* and a marvelous dragon on the *fuchi-kashira* signed by *Seijō* provides a handsome balance to this samurai sword.



This elegantly curved katana has been attributed to *Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi*. He was a pupil of the highly accomplished smith *shodai* (first generation) *Izumi no Kami Kunisada*.

Given the deep curvature of this katana, it would have been produced early in his career, circa 1648 during the *Keian era*.





# NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

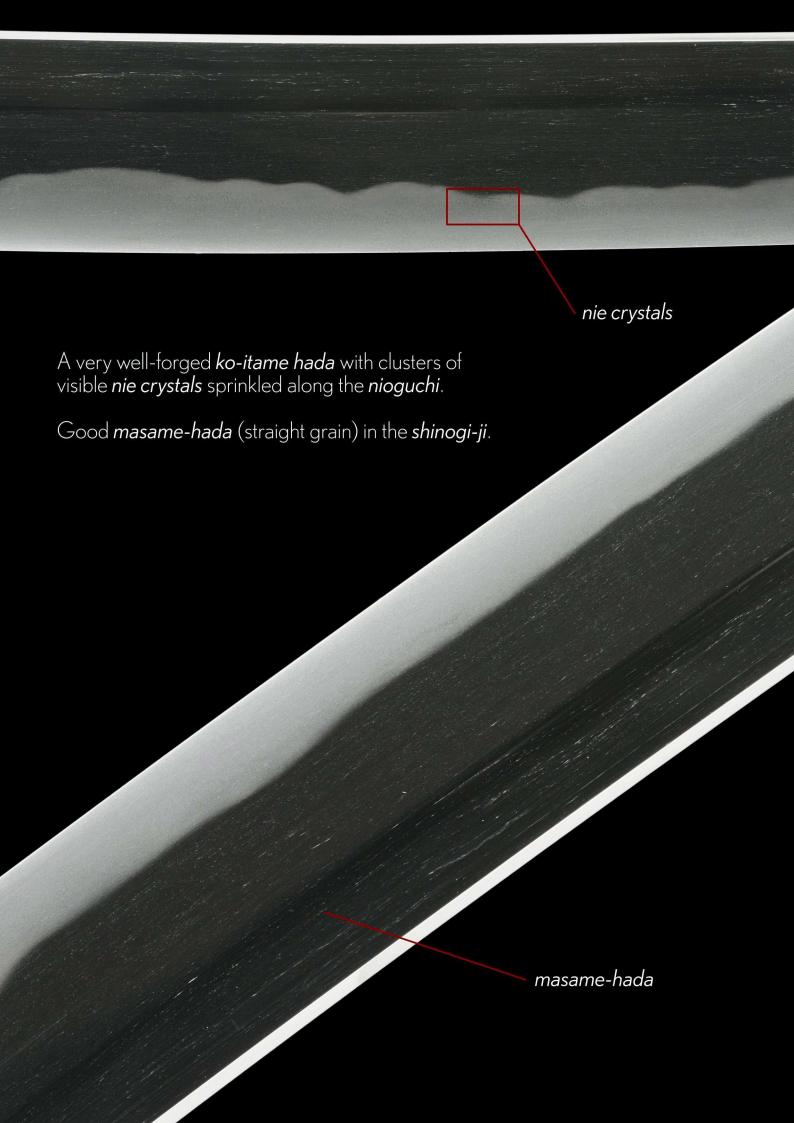
Issued in the 23rd year of Heisei (2011), August 17th

One, Katana

Mei (signature) Mumei (Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi)

> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 0-sun 8-bu (63.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)











Traditional uchigatana samurai koshirae in classic black lacquer



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity





This polished iron *tsuba* was signed and crafted by *Tomonobu* from the *Choshu school*. Choshu fittings are known for their smooth dark patina and rounded designs.

Peaceful fishing and mountain scenes such as this one were the primary focus of this school. A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO accompanies this tsuba.



(reverse)



The sculpted tsuka (hilt) is secretly signed by craftsman Higuchi Akihoshi.



The *fuchi-kashira* is signed by *Seijo*. A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO accompanies this fuchi-kashira.



A snarling dragon depicted on the *kashira* (pommel). Note the lifelike detail of the hand-carved scales.





hello dragon.

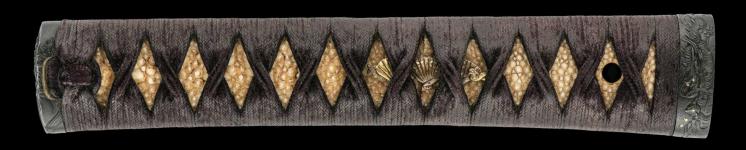




Fans (*hiogi*) with special wood and silk stitching were considered the symbol of high court aristocracy.



The Mieido Fan Shop by Utagawa Toyokuni







ITEM# UJKA304

## A KUNITSUNA 'LIVE CUTTING TEST' KATANA

SIGNED WITH GOLD INLAY, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KEIAN ERA, 1648~1652)

**Swordsmith:** *Echizen Ju Sagami no Kami Fujiwara Kunitsuna* (1st gen., Fujishiro: chu-sakū)

Type of Steel: *Jigane oroshi kore o utsu* 

Gold inlay (test): Tameshiba fukui keijin-giri tachi-kesa oyobi waki(ge) fukan Sen'a

Measurements: Length: 76.2cm (ubu) Curvature: 1.97cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Dark jigane with a mix of itame-hada with masame-hada and shirake utsuri

**Hamon:** Notare and ko-gunome based on suguha with teeth-like ashi

**Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation)

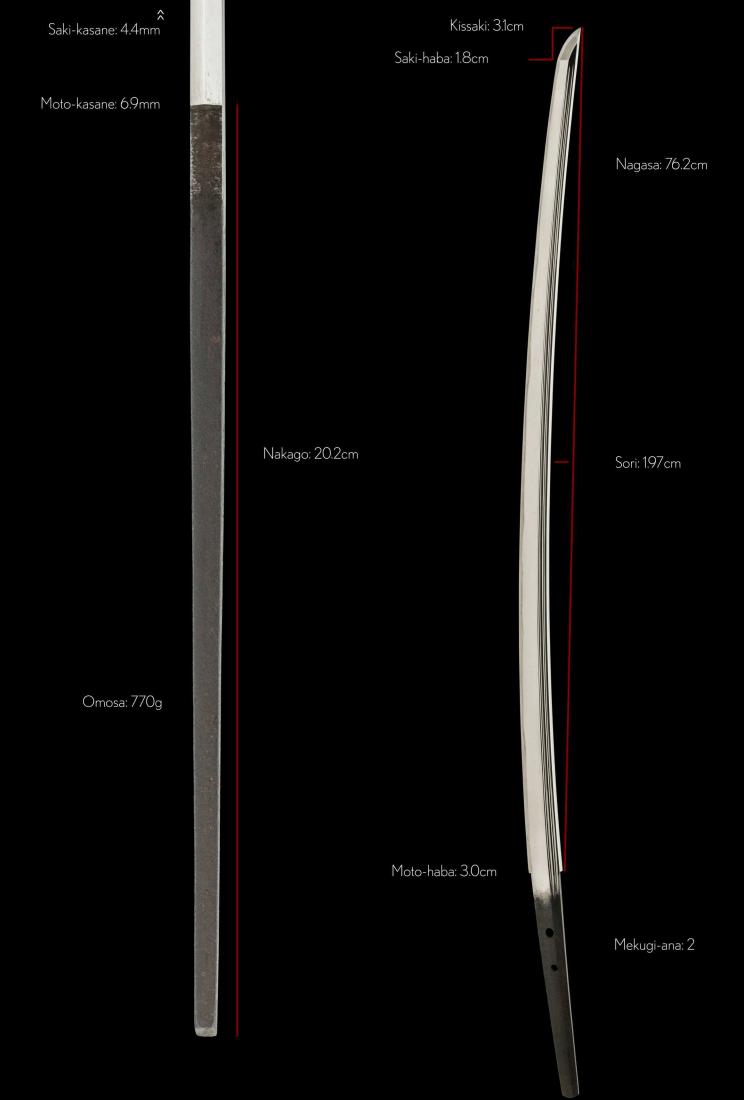
**Certificates #2-4: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic)

Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

## **SOLD**

This is a long and most intense katana that was crafted by *Kunitsuna* in the burgeoning castle town of *Echizen* during the mid-1600s. An extremely rare *tameshigiri tachi-kesa* cutting test was performed with this sword slicing diagonally through the standing body of a *live convicted criminal*. It later severed the same body across the chest in one stroke by way of the *wakige* cut.

The raw steel of this sword was harvested by Kunitsuna himself, a process called *oroshigane*. The *saya* is lacquered in a beautiful *tsugaru* technique with a powerful tiger and dragon *tsuba* that echoes the intensity of this piece. This is one seriously rare and collectible samurai sword.



First generation *Kunitsuna* of the *Echizen-Shimosaka school* produced his best work during the *Keian era* (1648~1652).

The overall curviness of this sword speaks to this time frame. Most swords made later during the Kanbun era (1661~1673) would show less curvature.



Location: Echizen province

Title: Sagami no Kami (Lord of Sagami province)

Clan: Fujiwara

Swordsmith: Kunitsuna (first generation)

This katana was forged by first generation Kunitsuna of the Fujiwara clan with title of Sagami no Kami while living in Echizen province.

Echi

zen

Ju

Saga

mi (no)

Kami

Fuji

wara

Kuni

tsuna

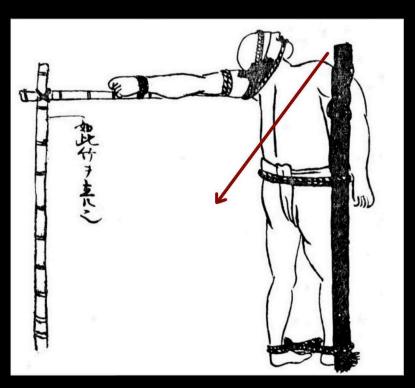


Kinzogan-mei (gold inlay) reads:

越前住相模守藤原国綱·地鉄下打之 Tameshiba fuki keijin-giri tachi-kesa oyobi waki(ge) fukan Sen'a

#### Translation:

Sen'a tested this blade on a live criminal and severed through his body via the standing kesa (diagonal across the body) and then waki(ge) (horizontally across the chest) in single strokes.



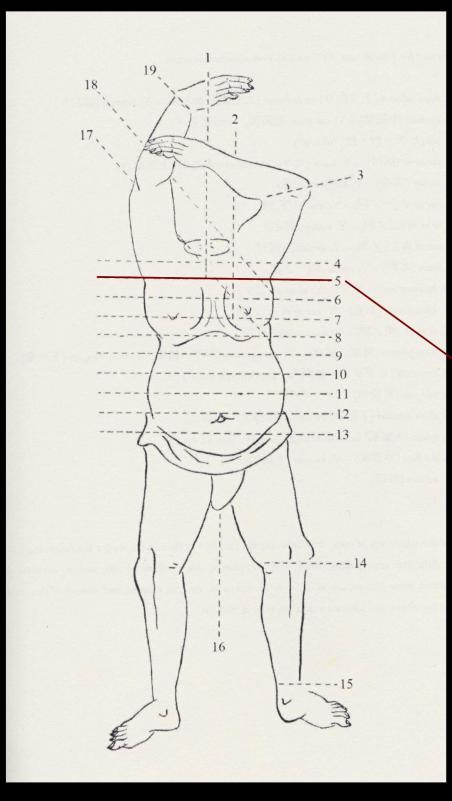
tachi-kesa (standing kesa"): Kesa cut on a living felon. The picture above shows a tachi-kesa fixation for an o-kesa cut going from the right shoulder diagonally down to the left side of the body as presented in the Yamano-ryu ryodan no maki.

Here the body is tightly tied to a thick pole with the left hand stretched out and tied to another pole. In addition, the head is tied to the left shoulder so that it does not interfere with the cut.

We also know records which describe a variant with the felon's left foot buried in the ground well above

**TAMESHIGIRI** 

The History and Development of Japanese Sword Testing by Markus Sesko



After the *tachi-kesa* was completed, the body would have been untied and placed on a *dotan* (earth mound) raising it off the ground (as pictured below).

A further *tameshigiri* test cut known as *wakige* was then performed on the deceased criminal as documented in the gold inlay.

Wakige translates to 'armpit hair' as the cut severed the body horizontally in one clean stroke at number 5 upper-torso position on this diagram.

The test cutter is *Sen'a* which, according to Markus Sesko, has no records. Interestingly, one strong lead is the swordsmith *Moritoshi*, younger brother of the famous shinshinto smith *Kurihara Nobuhide* who signed swords using the Sen'a name. Moritoshi was active from 1865-1868.

Furthermore, the gold inlay rounded *reisho* type cleric script written on the *nakago* is a match for the time period that Moritoshi was alive.



An official *shinnin-tameshi* (standard cutting test) being performed.

Images from Markus Sesko's book 'TAMESHIGIRI", The History and Development of Japanese Sword Testing. Jigane oroshi kore o

#### Translation:

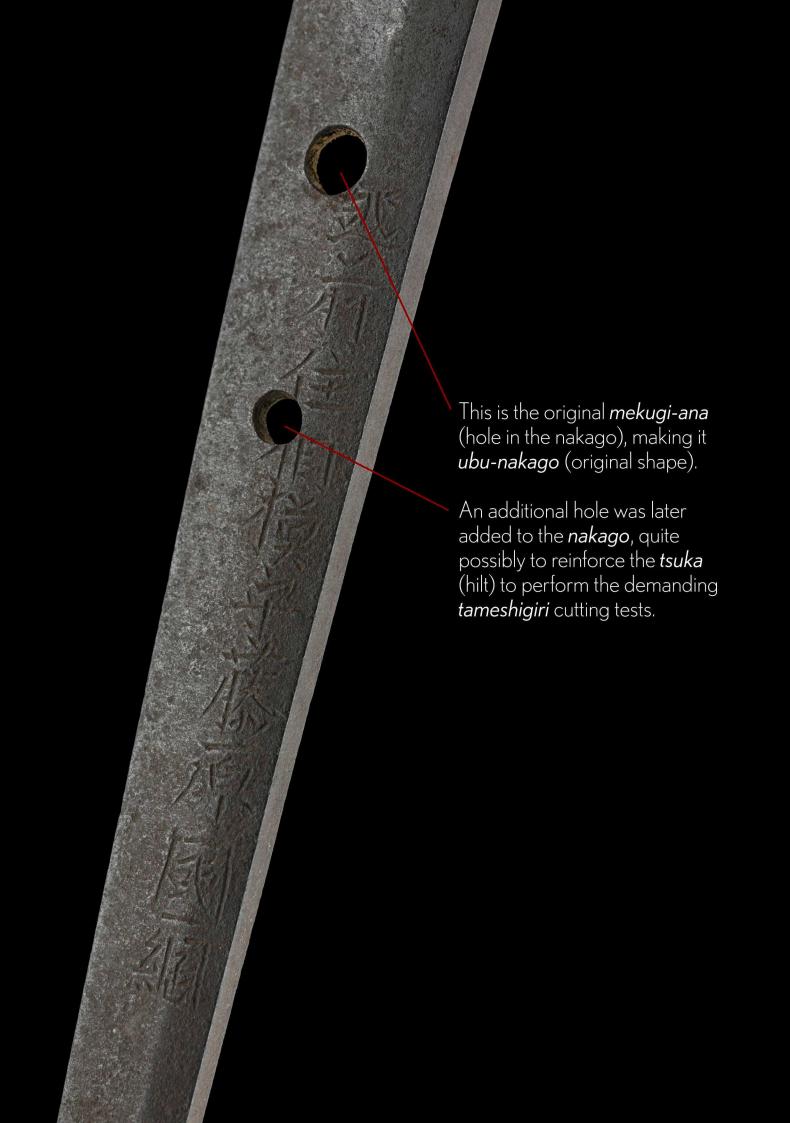
This katana was forged using oroshigane steel.

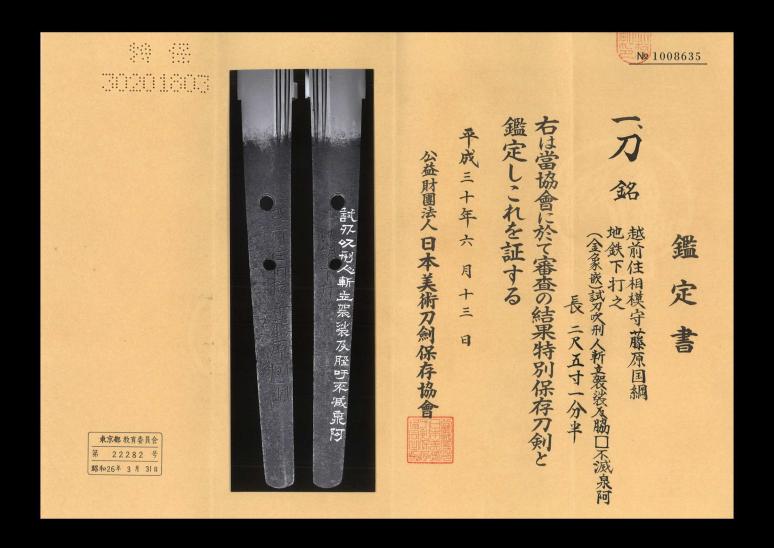
#### About oroshigane:

Tamahagane is the raw steel that a swordsmith uses to craft a Japanese sword. It is traditionally made from satetsu (iron sand) and carefully cooked in a furnace called a tatara.

Oroshigane is a special variation of tamahagane that is produced by the swordsmith himself. Small pieces of tamahagane and other steels, such as steel from old nails or sword blades, are heated in a small-scale tatara outside of the forge. This way the smith controls the purity and carbon content to get exactly the steel he wants.

Kunitsuna would have been proud of this accomplishment. He thus chiseled the nakago with the characters of this rare forging process.





# 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 30th year of Heisei (2018), June 13th

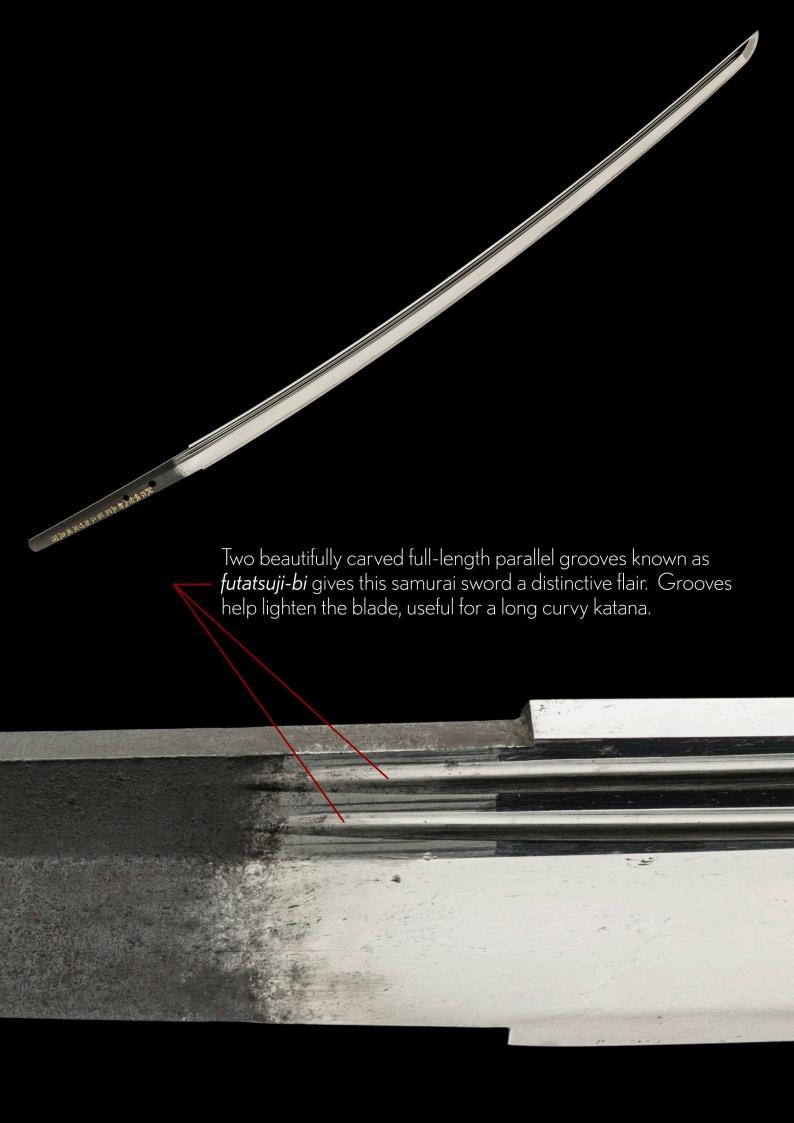
One, Katana

Echizen-Ju Sagami no Kami Fujiwara Kunitsuna

Jigare orishige kore o utsu (Kinzogan-mei) Tameshiba fuki keijin-giri tachi-kesa oyobi waki [] fukan Sen'a

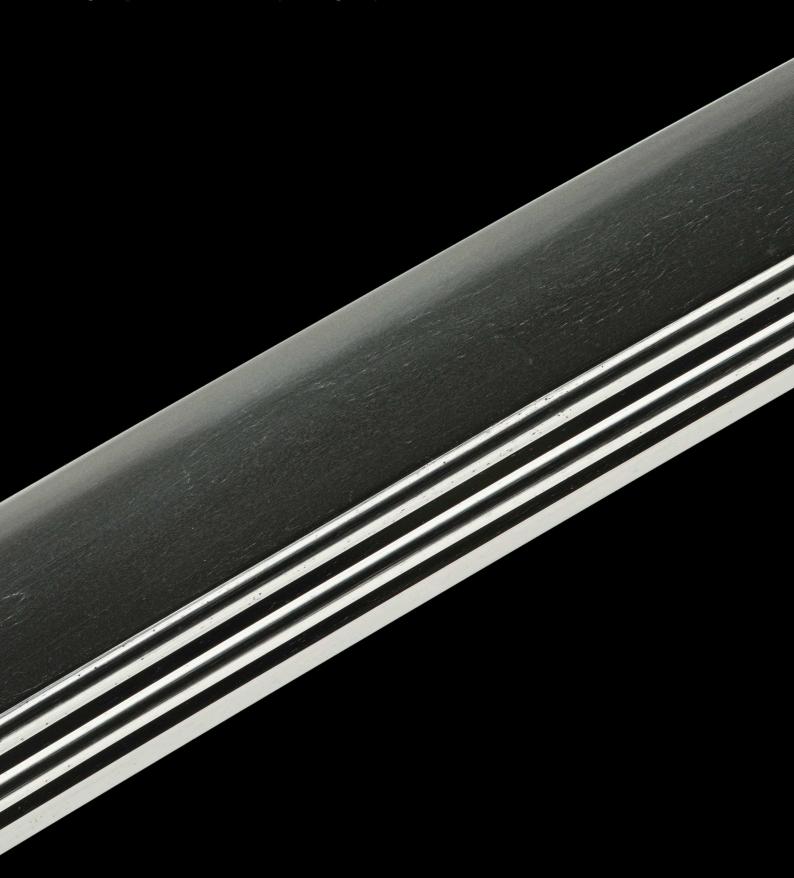
> Nagasa (length) 2-shaku 5-sun 1-bu han (76.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

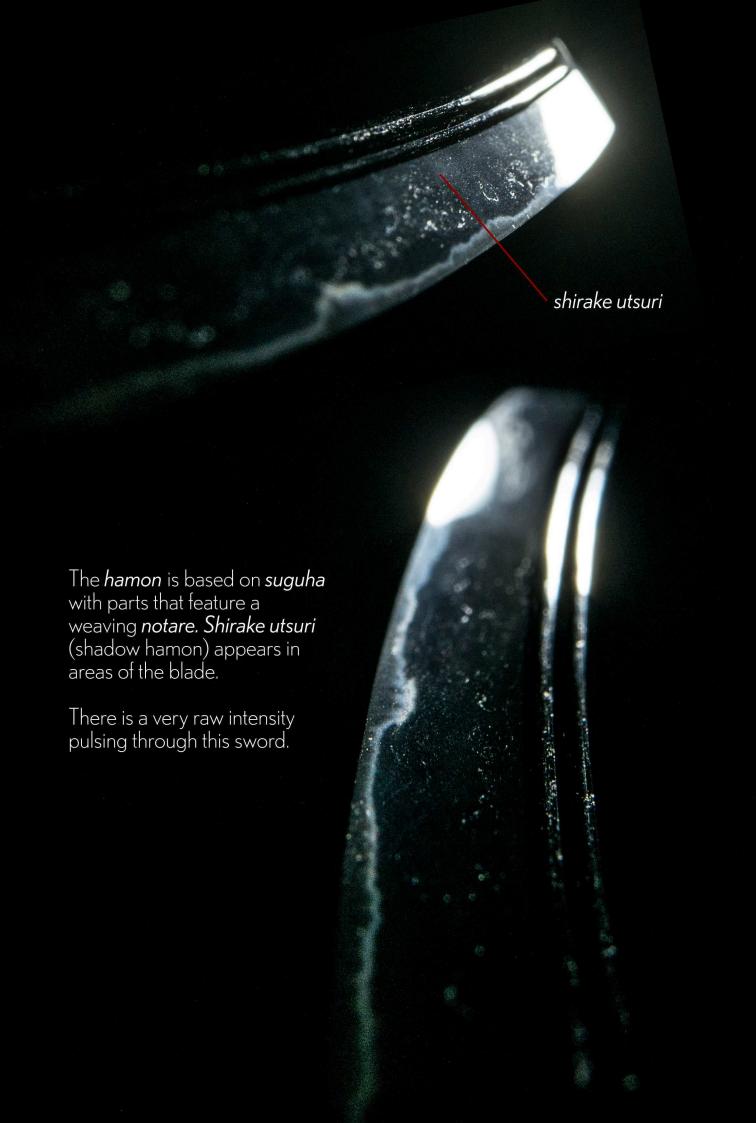


The *jigane* (surface steel) exudes a dark, rather mysterious hue. This is characteristic of swords made in the Echizen region.

The *jihada* (steel skin) pattern is a mix of *masame-hada* (straight grain) and *itame-hada* (wood grain).









Midori-iro Tsugaru-nuri-saya uchigatana-koshirae (緑色津軽塗鞘打刀拵え)

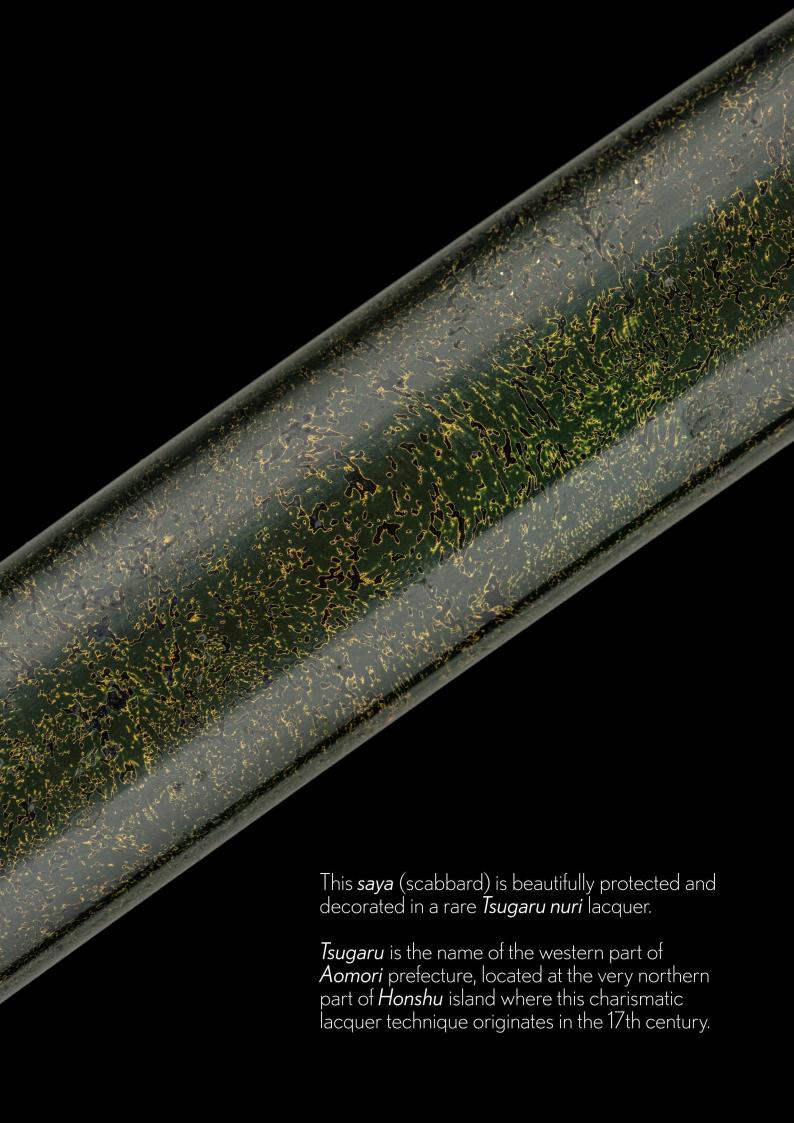
Uchigatana-koshirae with saya in green Tsugaru lacquer

> Crafted during the Late Edo period (1780~1868)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity







An absolutely awesome iron tsuba depicting a motif of a roaring tiger and a snarling dragon. This guard has been attributed to *Edo Tsuchiya Masachika* who worked in the late Edo period. NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.





(reverse side)

Note the powerful curling waves claw deeply into the iron. This artwork is reminiscent of the famous *ukiyo-e* print *Great Wave off Kanagawa* by *Hokusai*.





An elegant motif of paulownia flowers is depicted on the *fuchi-kashira*.

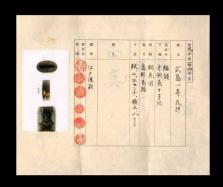
The paulownia flower has been seen on samurai art for centuries. Today it is the crest of the office of prime minister and also serves as the emblem of the cabinet and the government.





The *shakudo fuchi* (collar) is signed by *Takeshima Ichiju* plus his *kao* (monogram). Takeshima worked within the prized *Goto School* during the late Edo period.

This fuchi-kashira has been certified Kanteisho (authentic) by the NTHK-NPO.

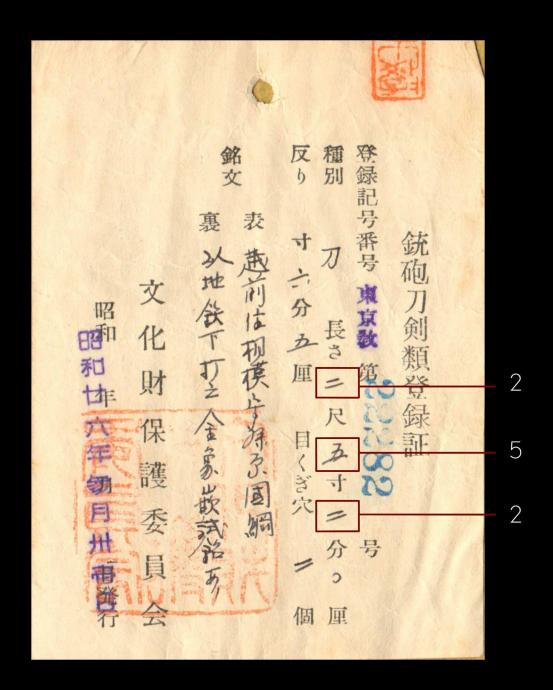






These fantastically unique menuki depict a theme of "squirrels amongst grapes". Originally seen on paintings in China, its meaning can be metaphorically translated as "abundance in fortune and offspring".





This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the Kunitsuna katana. The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (March 31, 1951) in Tokyo.

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.

Note that the traditional Japanese length measurements of *shaku, sun* and *bu* are handwritten for the units. One *shaku* is ~30.3cm, a *sun* is ~3.03cm and a *bu* is ~0.30cm.

This sword measures **2-shaku** (2 x 30.3cm) + **5-bu** (5 x 3.03cm) + **2-bu** (2 x 0.30cm)

Adding together: 60.6cm + 15.15cm + 0.6cm = ~76.35cm







ITEM# UJKA317

### a nakajima-rai katana

UNSIGNED, EARLY-MID NANBOKUCHO PERIOD (CIRCA 1330~1375)

**Swordsmith:** *Nakajima-Rai* (attribution, o-suriage mumei)

Measurements: Length: 72.1cm Curvature: 1.9cm Moto-haba: 3.15cm Weight: 720g

**Jihada:** Vivid itame mixed with nagare with ji-nie and abundant chikei

**Hamon:** Suguha-chō in bright nioguchi, nie-deki mixed with ko-chōji, ko-gunome, ashi and

yō, hotsure, kuichigai-ba, nijūba, uchinoke, kinsuji, and sunagashi

**Horimono:** Bōhi on both sides that runs through the nakago (kaki-tōshi)

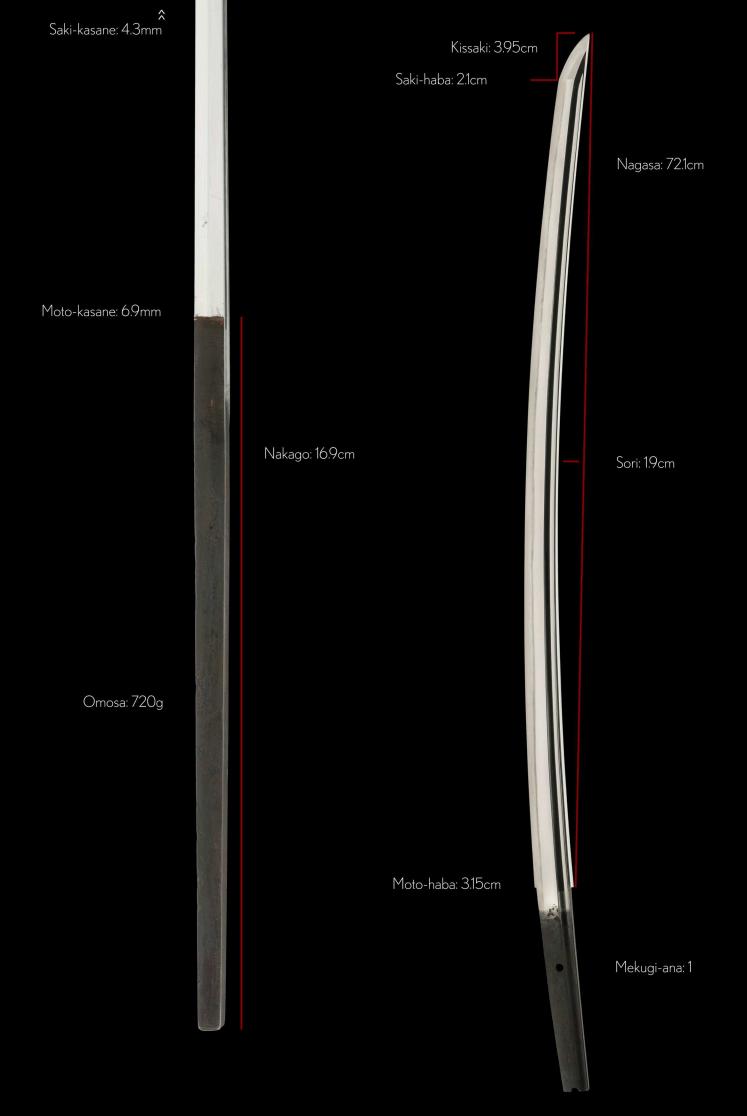
**Certificate: 62nd NBTHK Juyo Token** (a sword designated as Profound and Important)

**Fujishiro: Jo-saku** (first generation Rai Kuninaga is ranked as superior smith) **Included:** Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

### **SOLD**

The *Nakajima-Rai* branch of the esteemed *Rai* school was founded by *Rai* Kuninaga, a pupil of national treasure swordsmith *Rai* Kunitoshi. Kuninaga moved from *Kyoto* to the *Nakajima* district in *Settsu* province (Osaka) in the *Gentoku* era (1329-1331), earning him the nickname *Nakajima-Rai*.

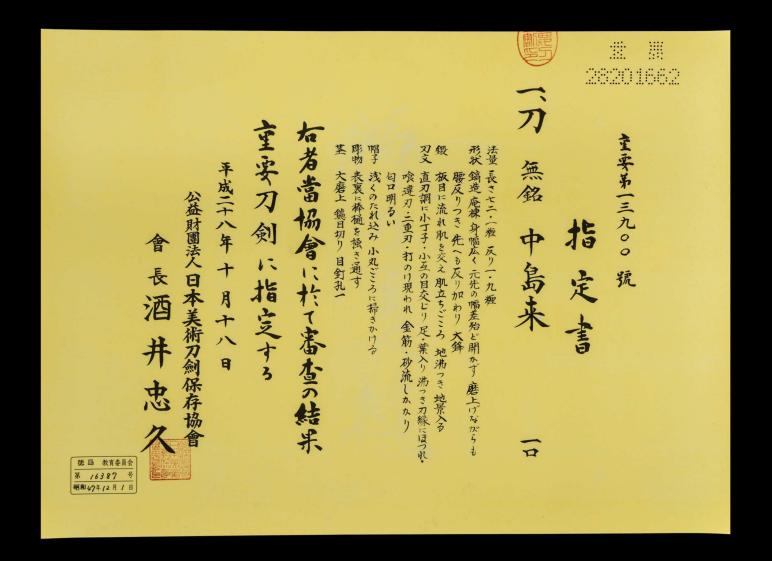
This powerful katana personifies the samurai and his character. It is a sword with a composed presence and prepared spirit for the warring *Nanbokucho* period battlefields. An abundance of *hataraki* (activity) embedded deep in the soul of the steel is awe-inspiring and hugely inspirational. The virtues of bravery, loyalty and the fragility of life beats within this sword. Life is a challenge. Take responsibility and engage with utmost commitment and intent.





Very few of these long and imposing blades have survived in their original length. Later generations of samurai had them shortened (o-suriage nakago) to a convenient size for everyday wear thus losing any signature in the process.

Above is an example of a sword from the Nambokucho period. Note how through the shortening process the *Nakajima-Rai* blade attained its current powerful shape.



# NBTHK Juyo Token Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Profound and Important* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 62nd year of Heisei (2016), October 18th

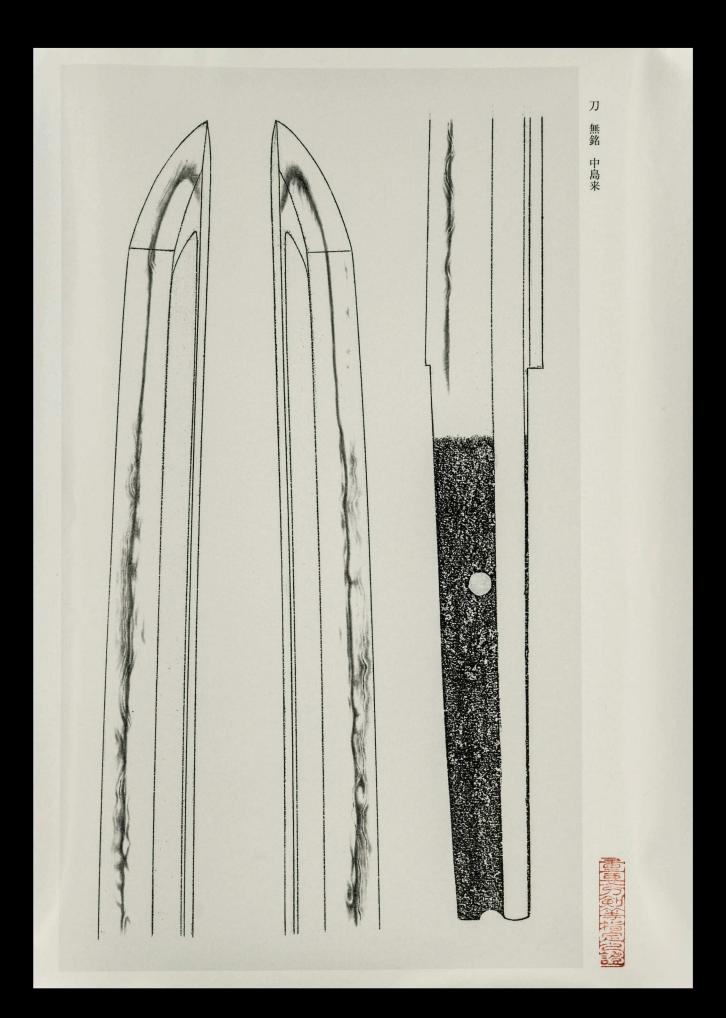
Katana, mumei

Nakajima-Rai (中島来)

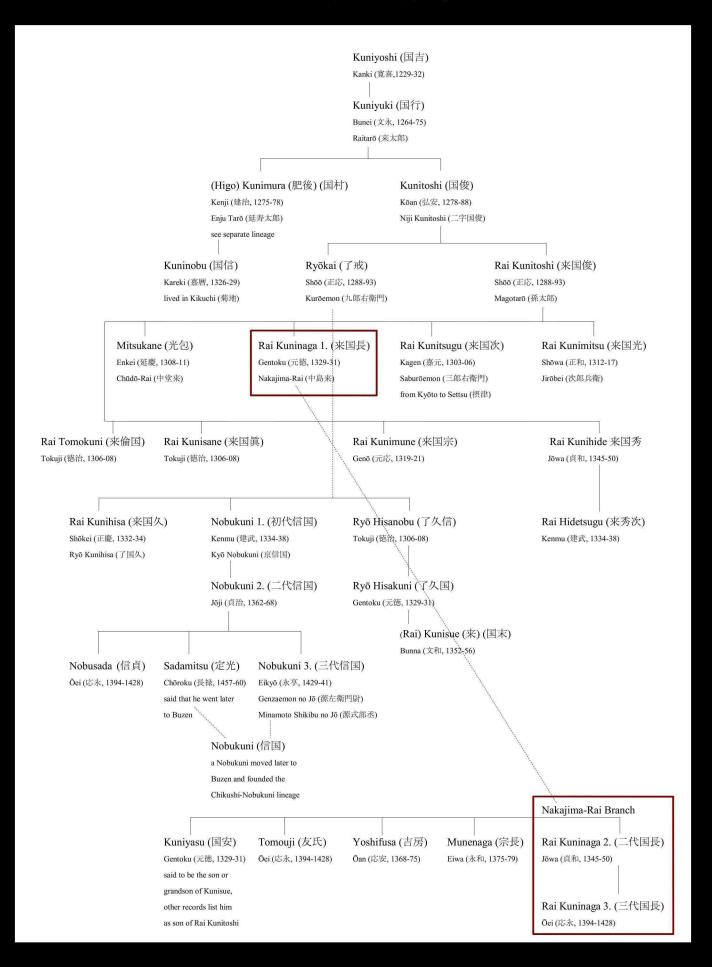
Length: 72.1cm Curvature: 1.9cm

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

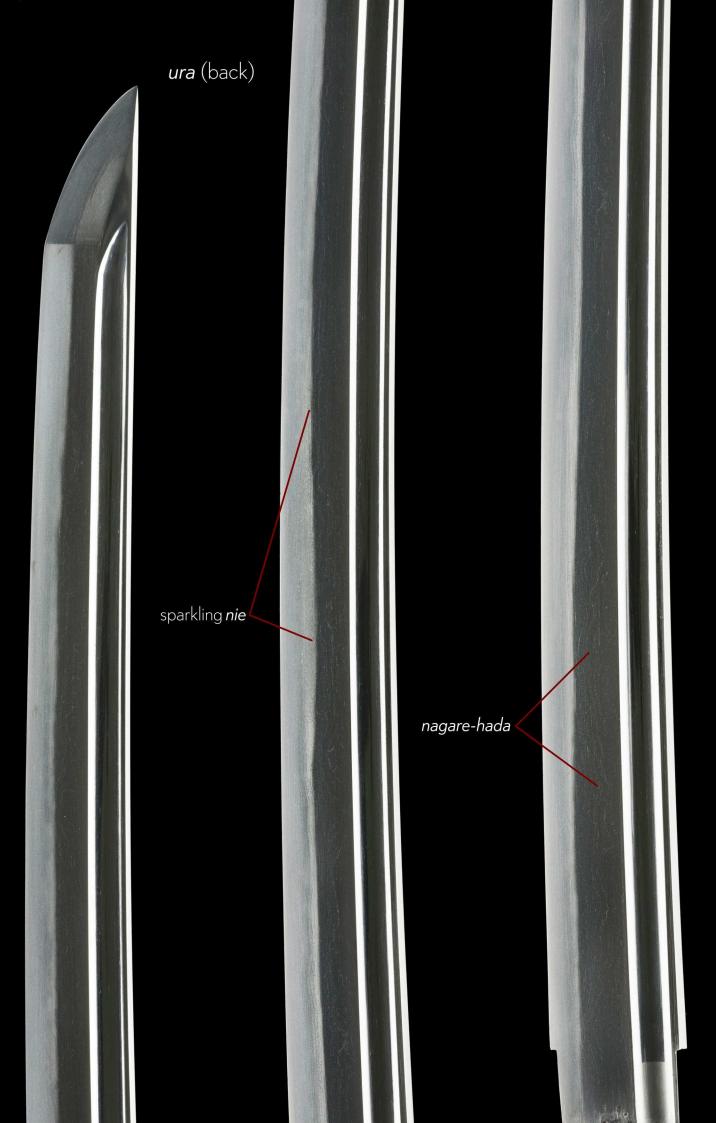
[President] Sakai Tadahisa (酒井忠久)



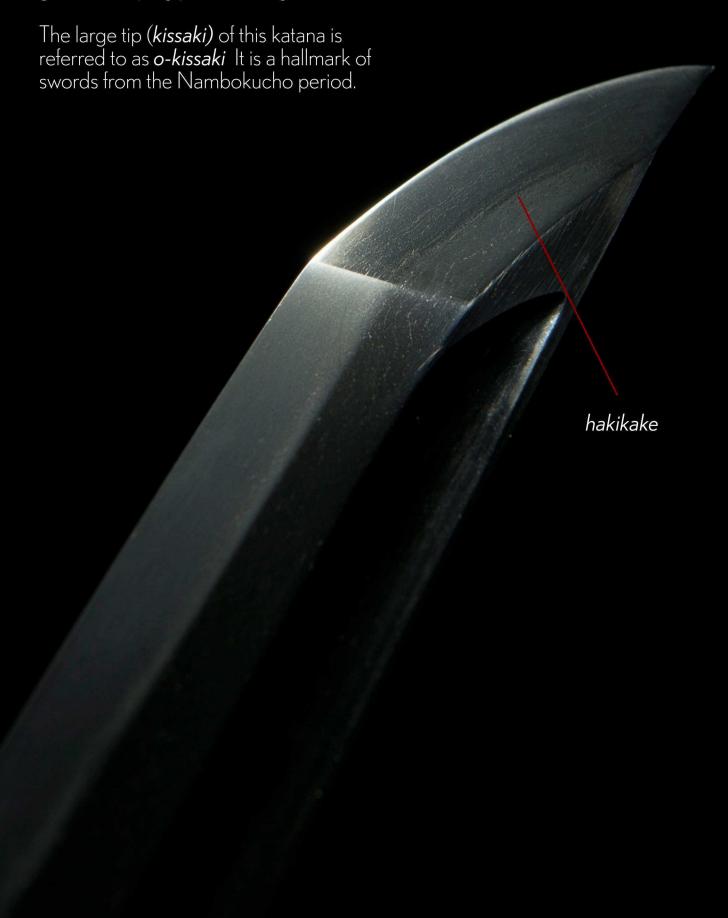
#### Rai school Yamashiro, province (Kyoto)

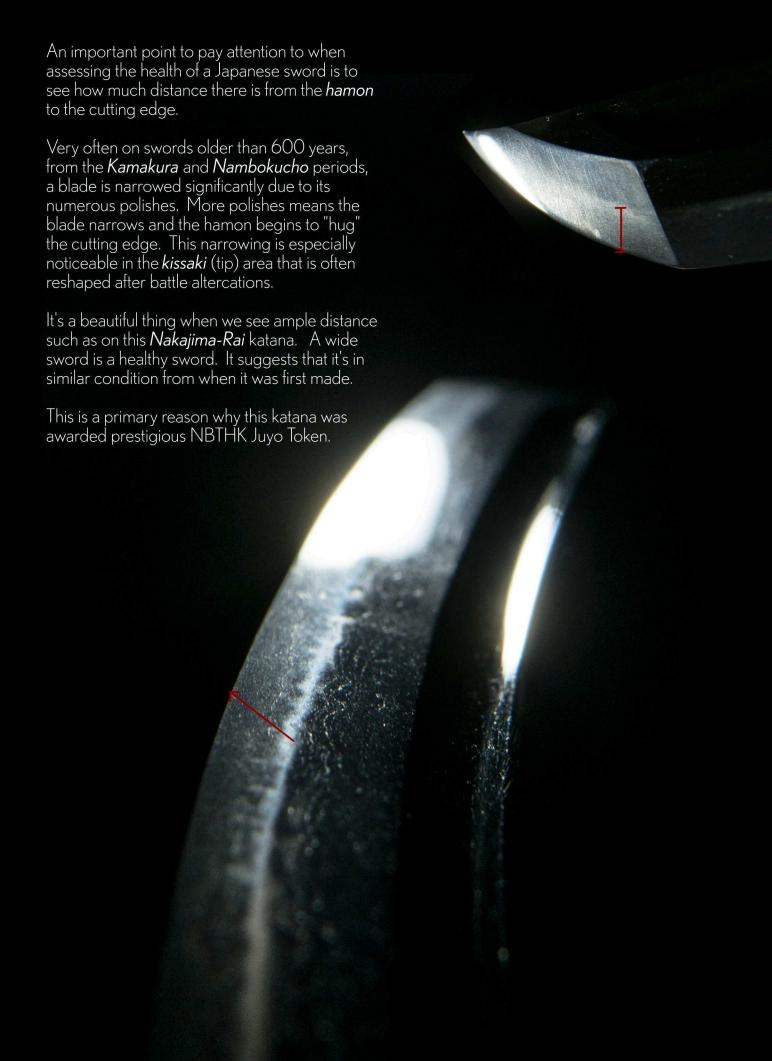




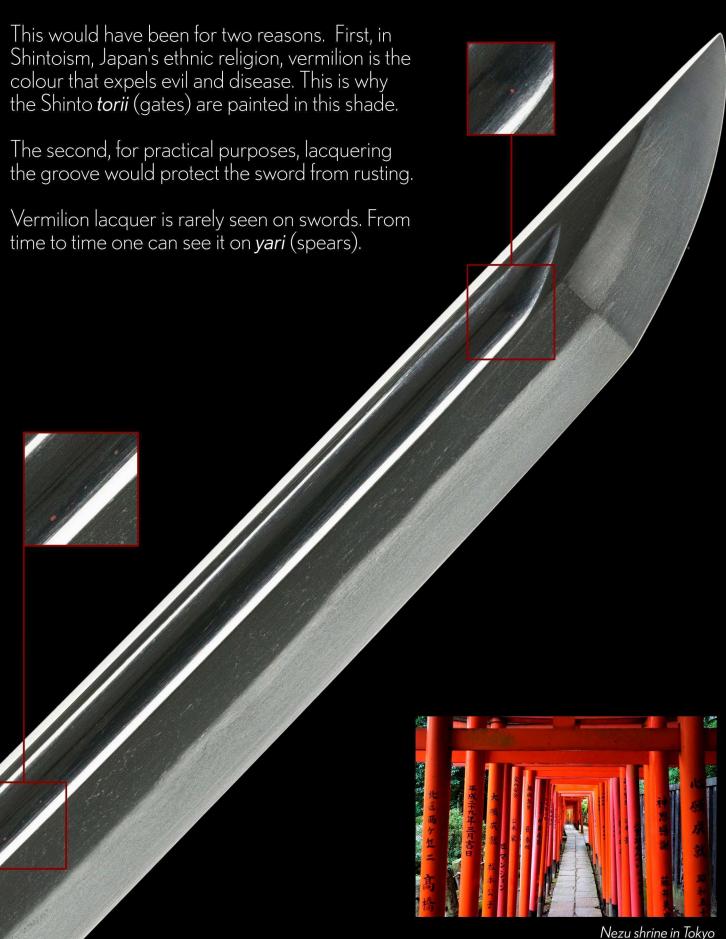


The *boshi* displays beautiful *hakikake* - a gentle sweeping pattern along the *hamon*.





Looking closely on the *hi* (groove) tiny spots of red *vermilion lacquer* can be seen. This suggests that for a significant period of time, both grooves were once lacquered in this colour.

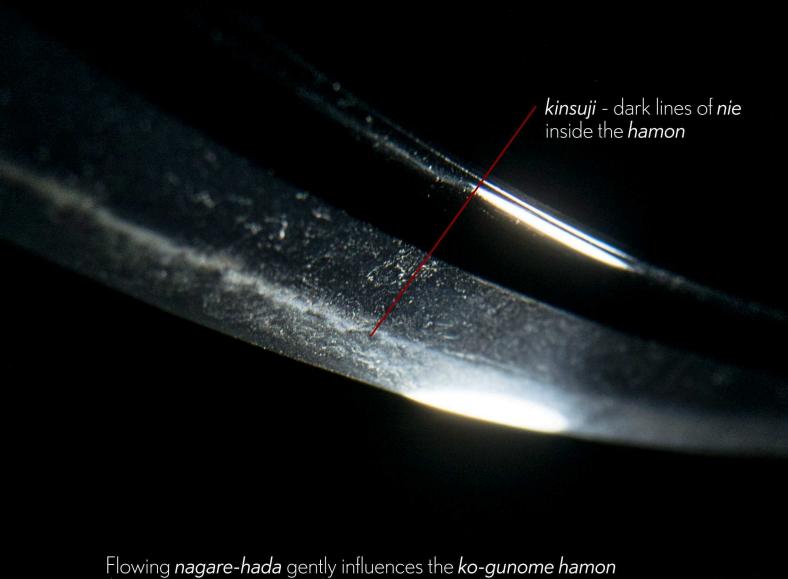






Parallel lines of *kinsuji* wrap around a large grain pattern of *itame-hada* inside the *hamon*.

Pure *nihonto*.



Flowing *nagare-hada* gently influences the *ko-gunome hamon* (tightly waving temper line). This is a sword with sophistication.











A new, top quality shirasaya will be handcrafted for the katana to better care and protect the blade.



a gold wrapped *ni-ju habaki* from the Edo period.



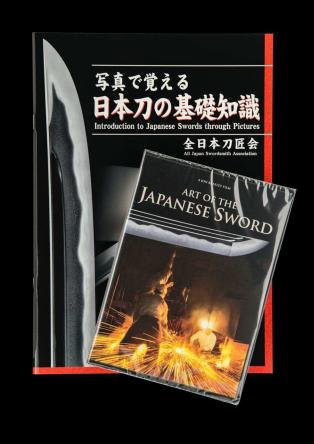
All information will be precisely translated for the new caretaker. A printed and bound description of the sword from this catalogue will also be included along with a sword stand and a Unique Japan maintenance kit.



#### 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).









ITEM# UJWA079

#### A KANENOBU WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENBUN ERA: 1532~1555)

**Swordsmith:** Den Noshu Kanenobu (attribution)

**Location:** *Mino province* 

**Construction:** *Shobu-zukuri* (iris leaf shape)

**Measurements:** Length: 37.3cm (ubu nakago) Curvature: 0.7cm Moto-haba: 3.15cm

**Jihada:** Densely forged itame-hada

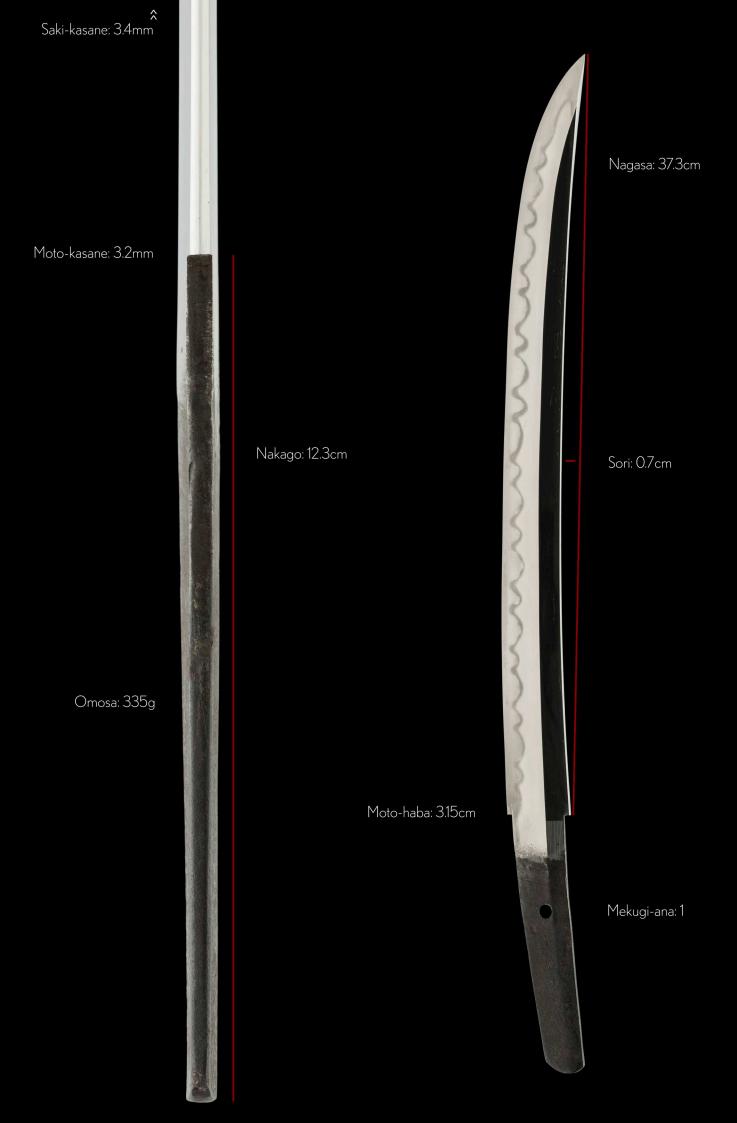
**Hamon:** Large bright wavy gunome-midare in noi-deki

**Certificates #1-2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (sword and koshirae designated as Authentic) **Included:** Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

#### **SOLD**

Attributed to swordsmith *Kanenobu* of Mino province, this very sharp *wakizashi* was crafted for use during the turbulent *Muromachi* period when Japan was engulfed in war over 500 years ago. Shaped like the leaf of an iris, the sword is forged with a tight *itame hada* and a most impressive *o-gunome-midare hamon* with large and small valleys that whip along the full body of the blade.

This wakizashi is protected beautifully within a matching set of *koshirae* from the late Edo featuring a scabbard uniquely lacquered to the appearance of tree bark. A polished *shakudo hamidashi tsuba* has gold inlay of a phoenix and *ume* (plum flower). The *menuki* portrays the squared *Meiryu kamon* that denotes a readiness for attack. The pure copper *kozuka* (paper knife) is signed by *Yanagawa Naomitsu* and depicts warlord *Xiang Yu* and first *Han* emperor *Liu Bang*.



The structure of this wakizashi is called *shobu-zukuri*. Shobu means "iris", as the shape resembles an iris leaf.

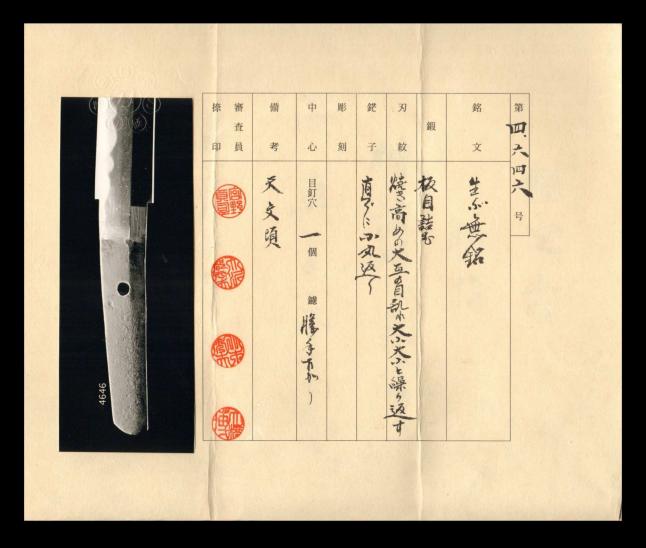
The full length of the spine is beveled like a *naginata*. This is a very sharp sword created for battle at the of the warring Muromachi period.

The samurai revered the iris as the word *shobu* has the pronunciation as 'martial' or 'samurai spirit'. The iris is depicted in many works of art.



"Irises"by Hokusai (1760-1849)





# NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic* by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

Den Noshu Kanenobu

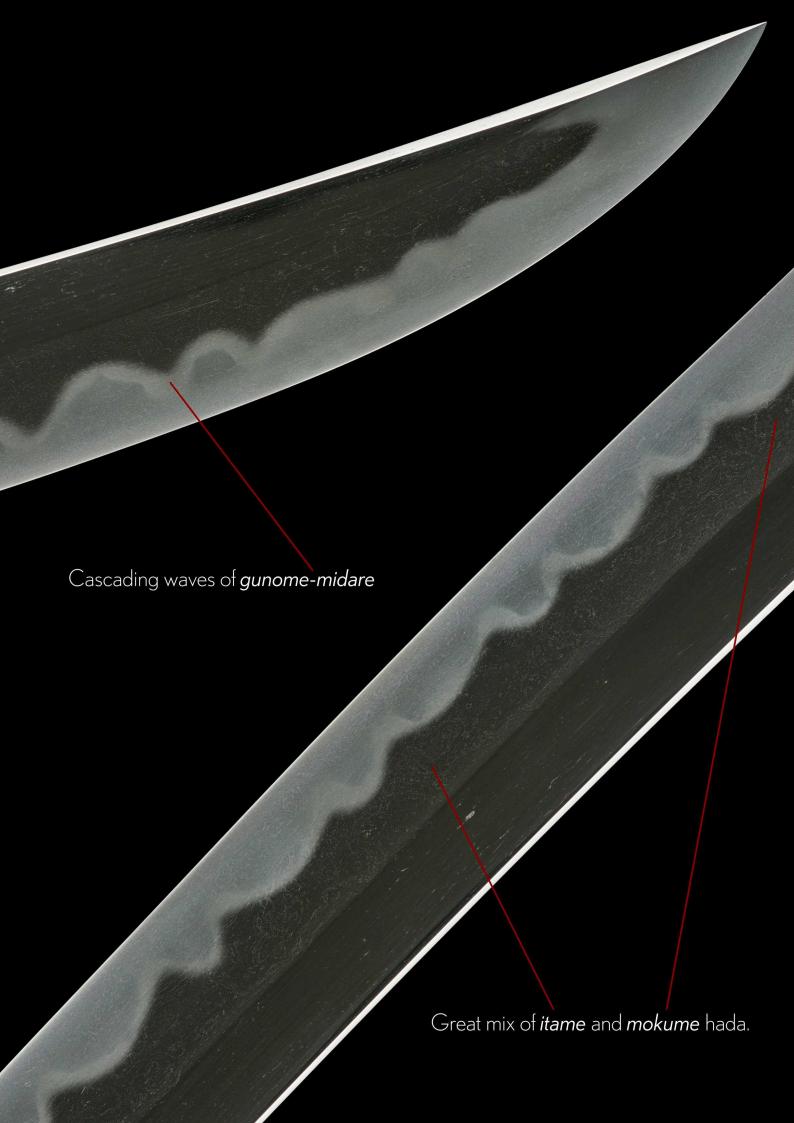
Nagasa (length) 1-shaku 2-sun amari kore ari (37.3cm)

Crafted during *Tenbun era* (1532-1555)

Shinsa judging panel: five hanko seals of authenticity

Issued in 24th year of Heisei (2012), October 14th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai (NTHK-NPO)











Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



a silver *shonai habaki* with angled rain pattern



Cha kawari-nuri saya shakudomumon kaigu chiisagatana-koshirae (茶変り塗鞘赤銅無紋皆具小さ刀拵え)

Small katana koshirae with unique brown-lacquer saya and undecorated shakudo fittings



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate dates the koshirae to the late Edo period circa 1780~1867









The *menuki* are in the form of the *Hakkoryu Meyui kamon* (crest). The type of mon was used by a retainer of the Minamoto clan and is commonly known as Meyui.

The geometric design of eight squares related directly to the number eight of Hakkoryu and the four eyes denotes *preparedness for attack from all directions*.

Yotsume (four eyes) is also said to guard against evil.





The kozuka is signed Yanagawa Naomitsu.





A brilliant pure copper *kozuka* with a motif of warlord *Xiang Yu* and *Liu Bang*, the founding emperor of the *Han dynasty*.





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 near JR Ebisu station.





ITEM# UJWA228

#### A NOBUYOSHI SUNNOBI TANTO

signed, early edo period (keian era: 1648~1652)

**Swordsmith:** Yamashiro no Kuni Fujiwara Nobuyoshi (first generation)

**Measurements:** Length: 31.4cm (ubu nakago) Curvature: 0.2cm Moto-haba: 3.0cm

**Jihada:** Densely forged nagare-hada with chikei

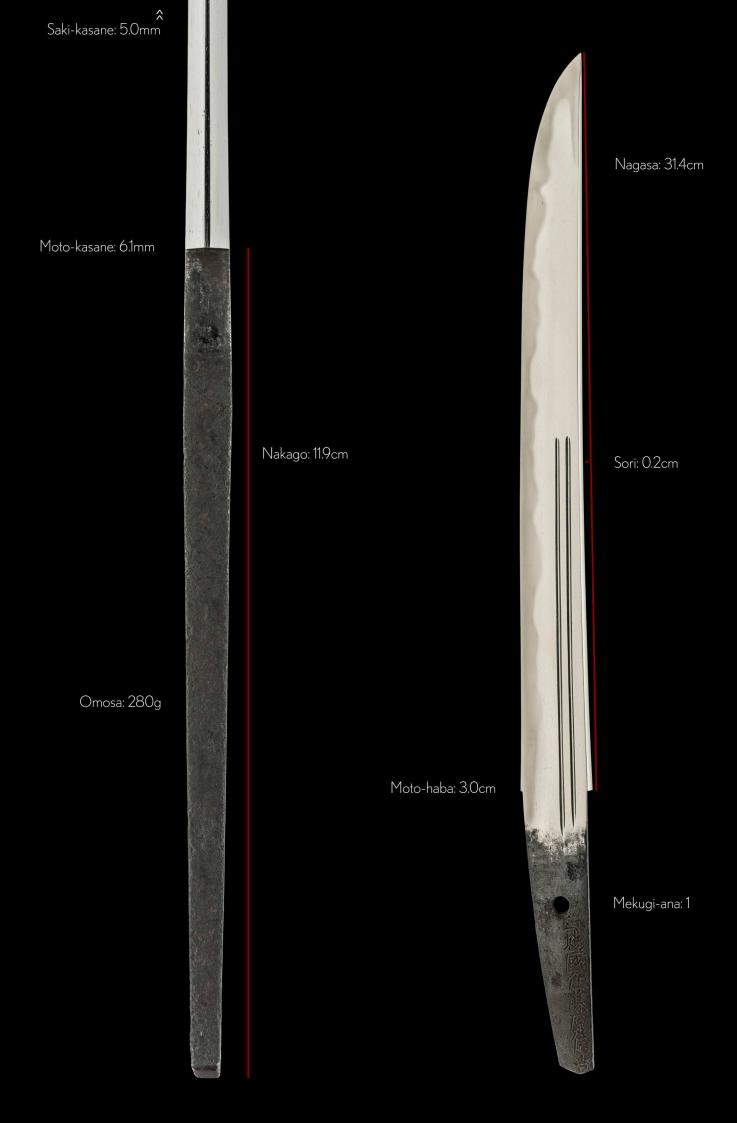
Hamon: Mix of small and large gunome-midare with long ashi and sunagashi
Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword that is Especially Precious)

Certificates #2-4: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (sword, koshirae and fuchi-kashira designated Authentic)
Rankings: Chu-Josaku (an above average smith) & Wazamono (maker of sharp swords)
Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

### **SOLD**

This beautiful sword is a *sunnobi tanto* - a long tanto that measures just over one *shaku* (30.3cm) in cutting edge - although technically registered as a *wakizashi*. It is in *hirazukuri* (flat) shape with *koshi-bi*, double *goma-bashi* grooves and a *bonji* engraving for spiritual protection. *Nobuyoshi* was born *Takai Kinzaburo* and he worked within the highly respected *Mishina school* in *Yamashiro* (Kyoto) in the mid-1600s. He first signed the clan name *Fujiwara* and later changed to *Minamoto*.

A bright, wavy hamon over brilliant nagare-hada flows like a stream of reflecting water. The nature scene continues in the Edo period koshirae fittings with the majestic Kami-iso shrine tsuba standing tall while birds and plum blossoms rejoice on the fuchi-kashira and kozuka. The kojiri (end cap) is further decorated with finely detailed pine trees and the menuki encourages great dreams in the form of nasu (eggplants). A theme of life appreciation encapsulates this little gem.



Technically registered as a wakizashi, this sword is a *sunnobi tanto* that is just over one *shaku* (30.3cm) in cutting edge. It is in *hirazukuri* shape with *koshi-bi* and *goma-bashi* grooves.

Nobuyoshi's real name is *Takai Kinzaburo* and he worked within the *Mishina school* in *Yamashiro* (Kyoto). He first signed the clan name *Fujiwara* and later changed to *Minamoto*.

Dated works exist in the *Shoho* era (1644-1648), which is approximately when this sword was crafted.



Location: Yamashiro (resident of Kyoto)

Clan: *Fujiwara* 

Swordsmith: *Nobuyoshi* (first generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

Yama

shiro (no)

Kuni

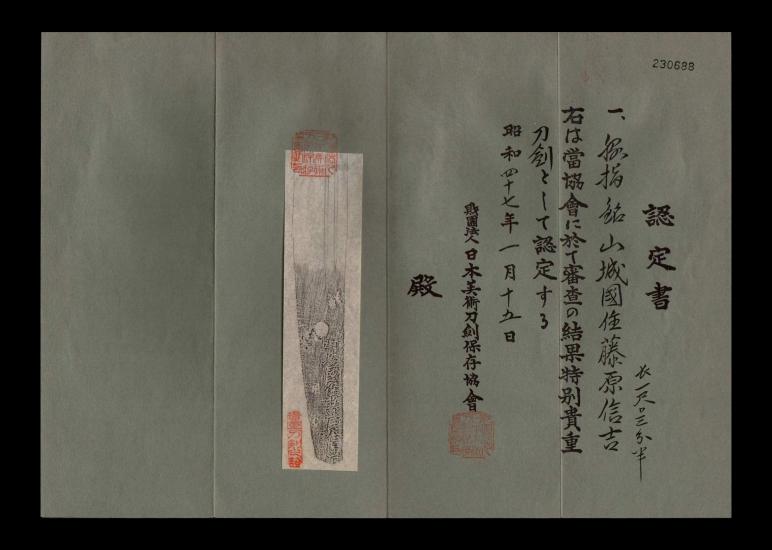
Ju

Fuji

wara

Nobu

yoshi



## NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 47th year of Showa (1972), January 15th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature) Yamashiro no Kuni Fujiwara Nobuyoshi

> Nagasa (length) 1-shaku 3-bu han (31.4cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)



## NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic* by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

Yamashiro-ju Shodai Nobuyoshi

Nagasa (length) 1-shaku 4-bu kore ari (31.4cm)

Crafted during Meireki era (1655-1658)

Shinsa judging panel: five hanko seals of authenticity

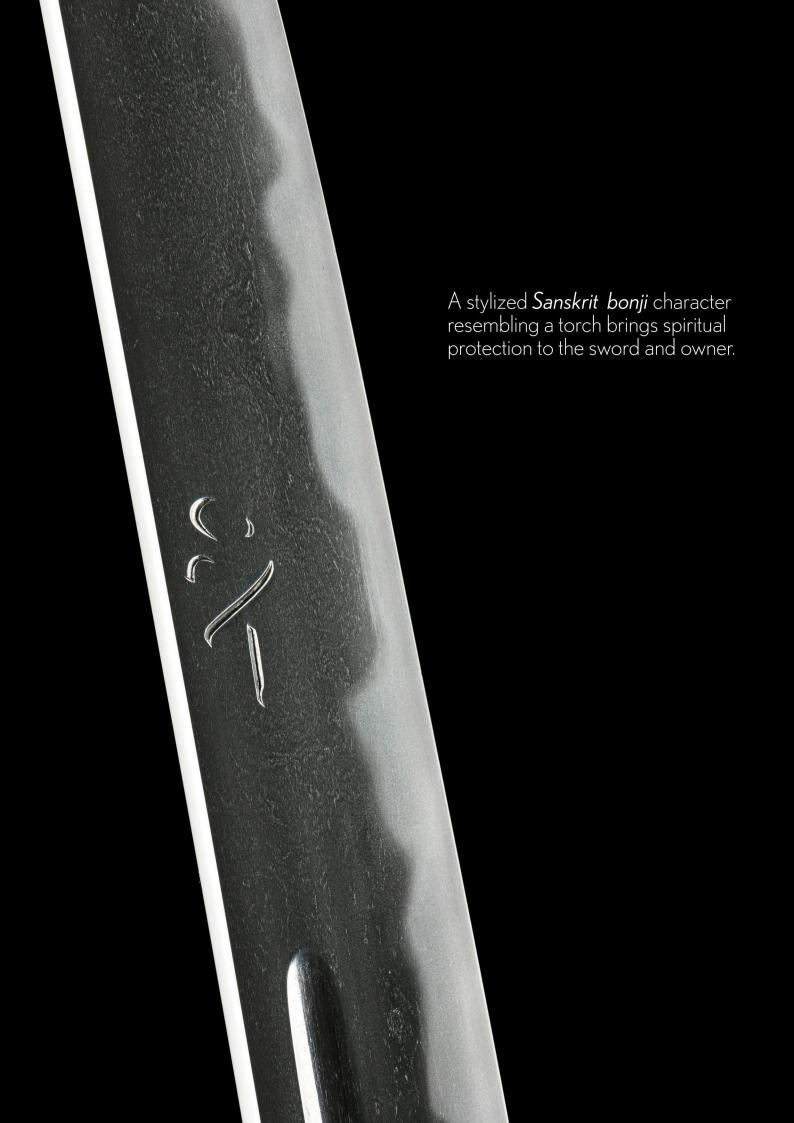
Issued in 30th year of Heisei (2018), July 15th

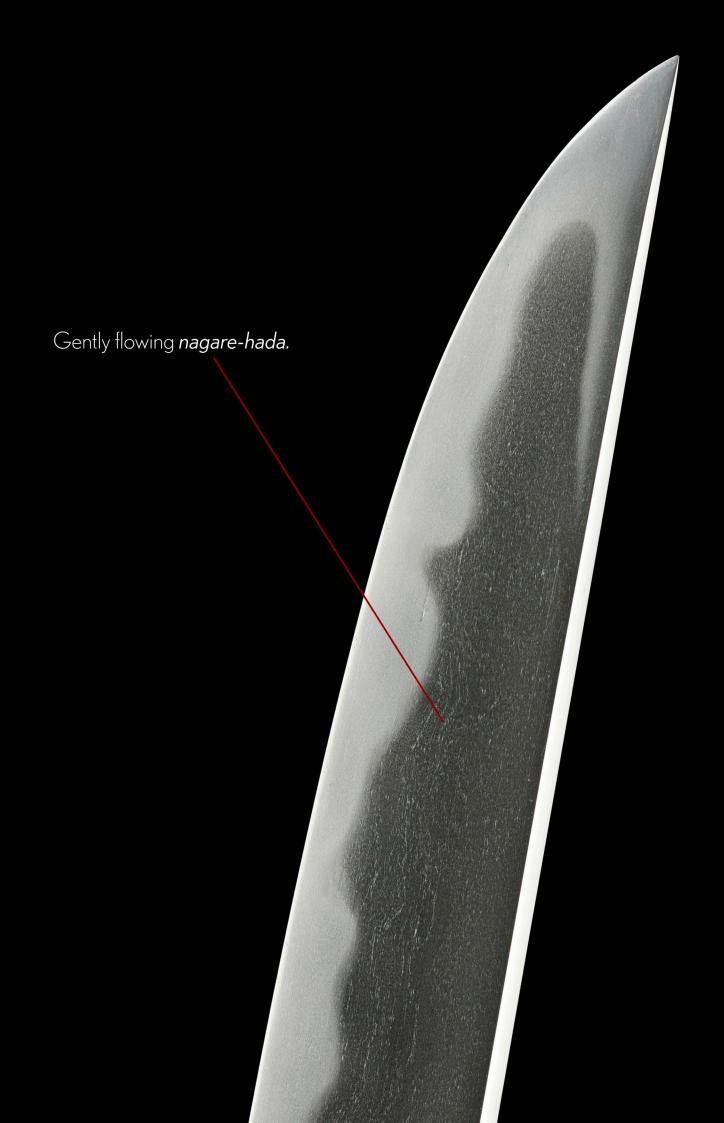
Nihon Token Hozon Kai (NTHK-NPO)

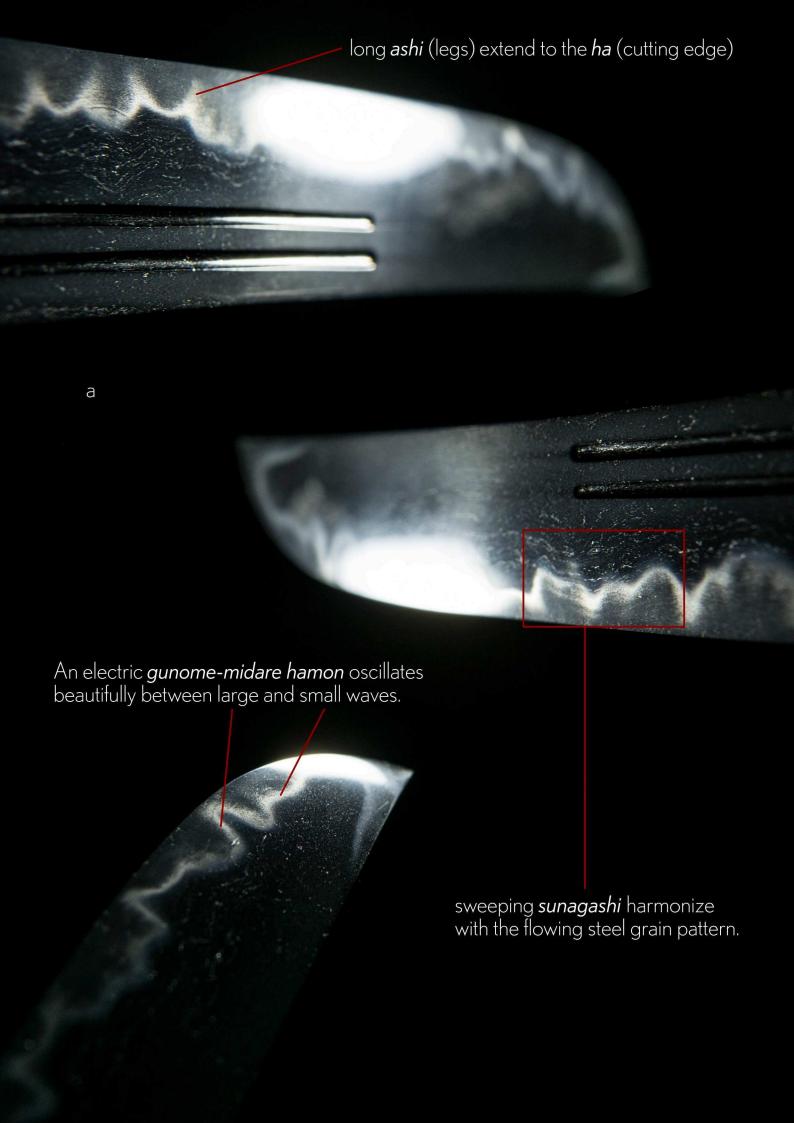
Mitsu (three) mune (spine/ridge) crafted swords have three surfaces, both angled sides and a flat top.

Mitsumune is generally found in the blades of smiths working of the *Soshu* tradition and related schools as well as in the tanto of the *Yamashiro* school.













Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



*niju habaki* gold wrapped over copper base with *kiri* straight file pattern





A glorious depiction of *Kami-iso no Torii* (Kami-iso shrine) graces this *tsuba*. Located on the *Oarai* coast in *Ibaraki-ken*, this gate is one of three gates affiliated with nearby *Oarai Isosaki Jinja* that was originally built in 856AD. It was rebuilt in the 1600s after being destroyed in the battles of the Muromachi period.

Kami-iso faces east and provides a prime spot to watch the sunrise. As the sun appears on the eastern horizon, its rays immerse the gate in red. The gate is also stunning at night when bathed in moonlight.







Nature inspires. Look up and take notice.





Nara saku

A beautiful *shibu-ichi fuchi-kashira* signed by the *Nara school* in *Edo* (Tokyo). The Nara school were known for their wonderful works of art in a host of nature themes.

Here, a motif of nightingale and plum blossom is crafted on a *chirimen* base.

This *fuchi-kashira* has been authenticated certified by the NTHK-NPO.

#### Menuki Dreams of Eggplant



Hatsuyume is the first dream one has in the new year. Traditionally, the contents of such a dream would foretell the luck of the dreamer in the ensuing year.

It is considered to be particularly good luck to dream of Mount Fuji, a hawk, and an eggplant. This belief has been in place since the early Edo period but there are various theories regarding the origins as to why this particular combination was considered to be auspicious. One theory suggests that this combination is lucky because Mount Fuji is Japan's highest mountain, the hawk is a clever and strong bird, and the word for eggplant (nasu or nasubi) suggests achieving something great (nasu). Another theory suggests that this combination arose because Mount Fuji, falconry, and early eggplants were favourites of the shogun Tokugawa leyasu.

thanks wiki













ITEM# UJWA234

#### A MUNETSUGU & SUKENAGA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (CIRCA TENPO ERA: 1830~1844)

**Swordsmiths:** Forged by **Koyama Munetsugu** and hardened by **Kosugi Sukenaga** 

Cutting Test: Tameshi chiwari kiri-otoshi Gotō Gosaburō

**Measurements:** Length: 44.4cm (*ubu-nakago*) Curvature: 1.06cm Moto-haba: 3.48cm

**Jihada:** Tightly folded kagami-hada (mirror-like finish)

**Hamon:** Sparkling gunome-midare in nio-deki with kinsuji and sunagashi

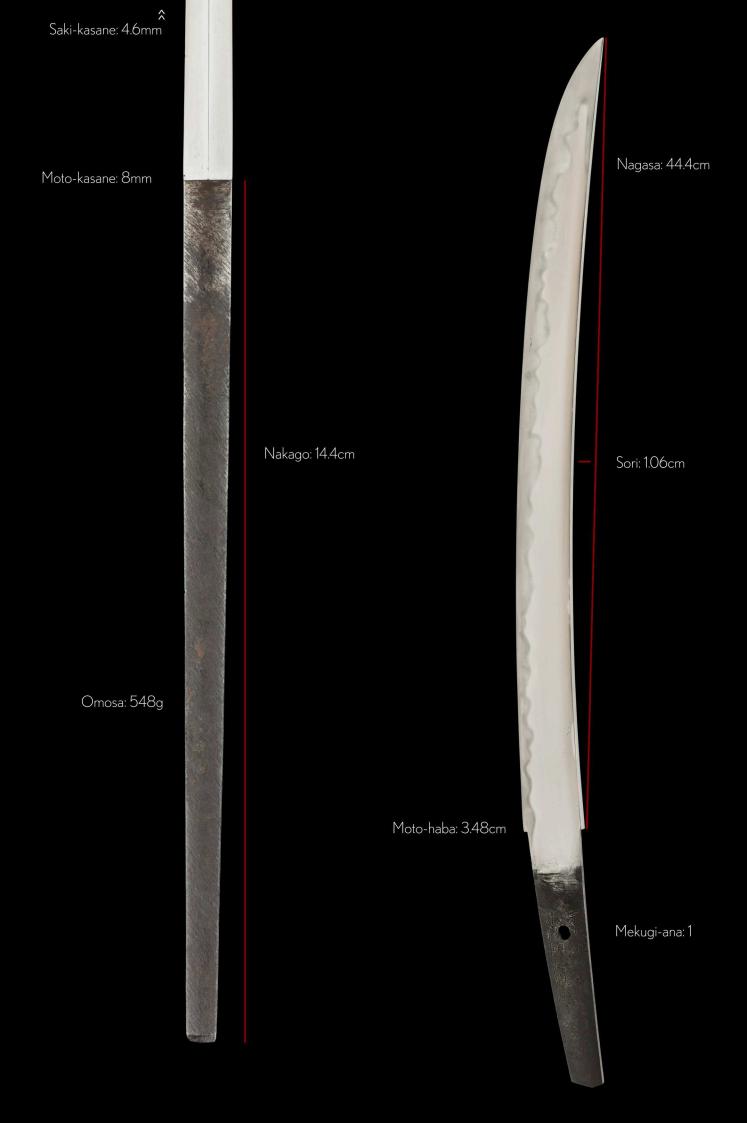
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation)

Fujishiro: Jojo-saku (Koyama Munetsugu is ranked as a highly superior smith)

Included: Shirasaya, sword bag, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

### **SOLD**

This is a highly collectible wakizashi of historic measure. It is the combined work of prized *shinshinto* swordsmith *Koyama Munetsugu* and *Kosugi Sukenaga* - a top-ranking samurai official and trusted advisor to the *Doi* family of the *Koga* fief. As stated on the *nakago*, Munetsgu first forged the sword and then gave the hardening responsibilities to Sukenaga who heated and quenched the blade. It's an amazing scene to picture - a highly respected samurai elder in his spare time literally getting his hands dirty inside the forge with maestro Munetsugu. What passion for the craft! Making this meaty wakizashi even more impressive is that it was used in a *tameshigiri* cutting test with *Goto Gosaburo* in which it severed the body of a deceased convicted criminal in one stroke. The *nakago* of this sword was published in a book by *Mitsuo Shibata*.



This meaty *hirazukuri* (flat) wakizashi was forged by the highly superior swordsmith *Koyama Munetsugu* and hardened by top-ranking samurai official and advisor *Kosugi Sukenaga*, pen name *Kenmotsu*.

Hirazukuri constructed swords are without shinogi or yokote, thus nearly flat on both sides. This type first appeared in tachi produced in the Heian period (pre-1185).

This sword was crafted circa the *Tenpo* era (1830-1844). It was then tested by *Goto Gosaburo* with a cut that severed a human body centrally across the chest in one stroke.



宗次鍛: Forged by Munetsugu

小杉輔長慰淬刄之: Hardened as a pastime by Kosugi Sukenaga

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)
kesho-yasuri (cosmetic file marks)

Mune

tsugu

kitaeru

Kosugi Sukenaga was an elder of the Koga fief of Shimosa province from where Koyama Munetsugu took several orders for swords. Sukenaga was the head karo - a top-ranking samurai official and advisor for the *Doi* family. He supported four leaders of the Kogahan until the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Sukenaga died in 1869. Sukenaga made a name for himself when he suggested to his then only 17-year-old lord, and last Koga daimyo *Doi Toshiyoshi* to surrender to the imperial forces. Toshiyoshi complied with this advice and saved

Koga from destruction.

土井利与

Doi Toshitomo (1851-1929)

試乳割切落後藤五三郎
This wakizashi was tested for sharpness by *Goto Gosaburo*.
With this sword, he severed the body of a convicted criminal in one stroke with the breast splitter cut.

Goto Gosaburo was the birth name of *Yamada Yoshitoshi* (1813-1884) who was adopted by *Yamada Asae'mon* - the seventh generation of the sword testing family .

Chiwari is the Yamada name for the cut that goes centrally across the chest. Other systems of sword testing such as from the Yamano family refer to this test as 'ichi no do' meaning first body cut.

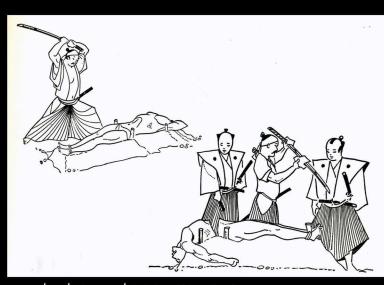
This tameshigiri cutting result (and the fact Sukenaga hardened the blade) was chiseled onto the nakago by swordsmith Munetsugu himself given the overall consistency in the characters.

Tameshi chiwari

kiri-otoshi

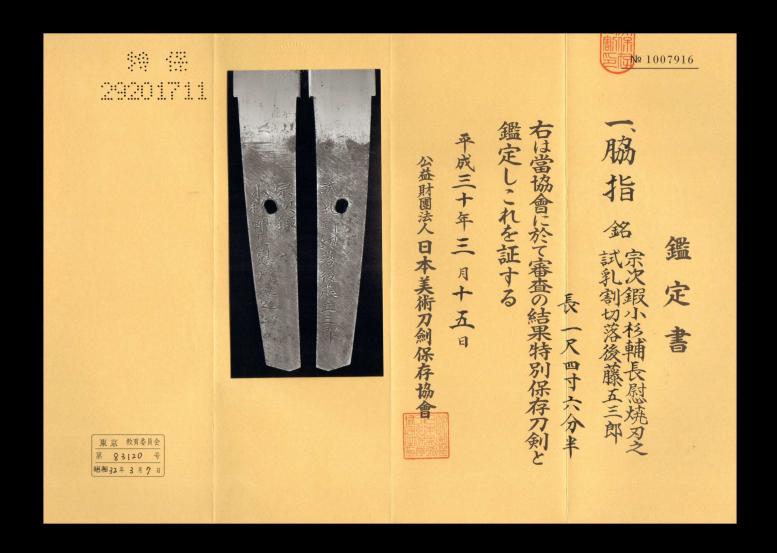
Goto

Gosaburo



one body tameshigiri cutting test





## 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

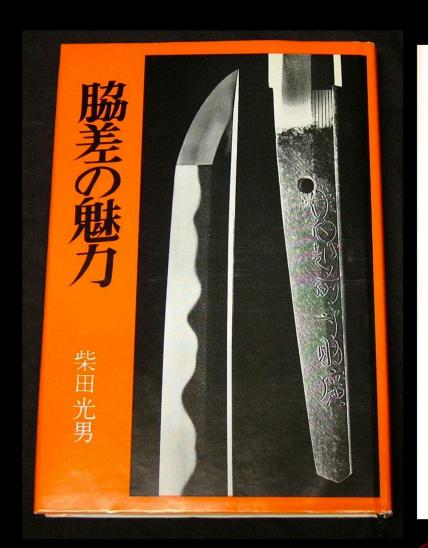
Issued in the 30th year of Heisei (2018), March 15th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature) Munetsugu kitaeru - Kosugi Sukenaga nagusami ni kore wo saijin Tameshi chiwari kiri-otoshi Goto Gosaburo

> Nagasa (length) 1-shaku 4-sun 6-bu han (44.4cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)



切先で、地は板目、刃文は互ノ目など荒錵がつく。 があり刀工教育家として有名。作品は身幅が広く、大 年伯耆守受領とともに正幸と改める。刀剣鍛錬の著書 明治初年まで作品をのこす。作品は地が小杢目の強い の利鈍について指導を受けた。弘化二年備前介を受領 江戸に出て桑名藩の刀工になる。山田浅右衛門に刃味 奥州白川の人。加藤綱英の門、固山宗兵衛と称した。 姓は伊地知、正近の門。初銘は正良(三代目)寛政元 ものと大板目肌のあるものなど、刃文は匂の締った互 固山 五五万円 安政 (刻銘) 薩州住正良 薩摩官工正良 目丁子。また、自作と思われる竜、剣巻竜などの彫 伯耆守平朝臣正

る。作風は二様あって、一つは丁子刃で足が縦横に入 作州津山藩士細川良助の子で二代目に当たる。水心子 いう評もある。〔刻銘〕上総次郎直勝 り重花となるもの、他の一つは大出来で、大乱れ砂流 細川 五〇万円 天保 武蔵 次郎太郎直縣 新々刀上々作

家に仕えた。江戸に出て直胤の養子になり下谷 初め上総次郎、のち次郎太郎と称し、 正秀の門に入り、初め正方と称した。のち正義に改め 在司次郎太郎藤原直勝造之 作品は互ノ目逆足入りたるものが多く直胤にまさる 五〇万円 安政 184

An oshigata (rubbing) of the nakago of this wakizashi was featured in a 1968 book called Wakizashi no Miryoku (Charm of the Wakizashi) by Mitsuo Shibata in the section where he introduces master swordsmith Koyama Munetsugu.

Born in August 1923 in *Tochigi* prefecture, Shibatasensei studied the Japanese sword under Fujishiro Yoshio. He was a prominent sword dealer who wrote a number of helpful books introducing Japanese swords and fittings to the general public.

As one of the most distinguished appraisers of shinto and *shinshinto* swords, discovering that this nakago was published in such a notable compilation was a happy find indeed. Shibata sensei died in 2006.



Shibata Mitsuo

Munetsugu forged a beautiful, bright, clear jigane (surface steel). The sword is so tightly folded that its grain pattern becomes mirror-like, referred to as *kagami-hada*.

The hamon of the *kissaki* (tip) is called the *boshi*, which literally means "hat". The quenching of the *boshi* requires great skill and timing.

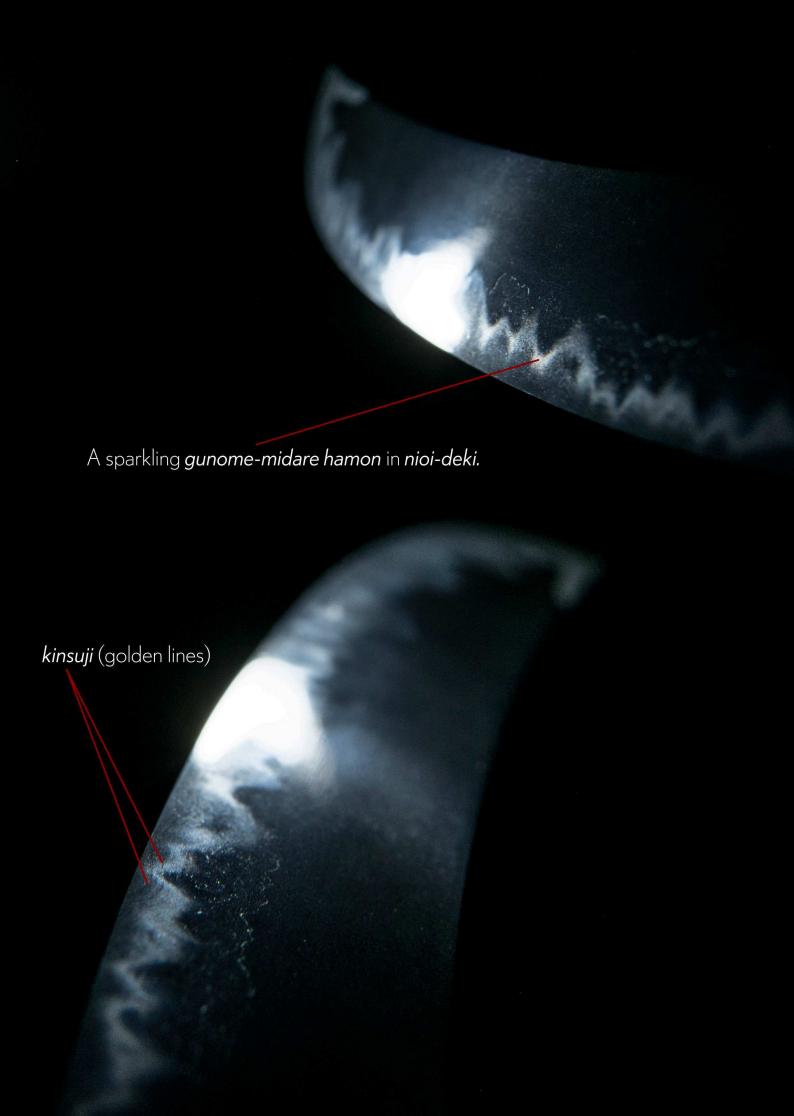
The shape of this boshi is a combination of two patterns, *midare komi* (irregular wavy pattern) to the *rounded head of Jizo* at the very tip, or *saki*. These words are combined to become "*saki-Jizo*".

Jizo dervives itself from *Jizo Bosatsu* is an important deity seen as a saviour for both pregnant women and children.













Shirasaya (protective scabbard)



a silver *yujo-habaki* with slanted file marks.



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ujwa233 - A Suishinshi Masahide Wakizashi dated February 1819 One of the final swords crafted by this grandmaster swordsmith In Edo period koshirae

Big congratulations R.K.!

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