



ITEM# UJKA116

## A CHIYOZURU MORIHIRO KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (OEI ERA: 1394~1427)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Echizen Chiyozuru Morihiro (ubu nakago)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 78.8cm <b>Curvature:</b> 2.4cm <b>Motohaba:</b> 3.06cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Well-forged itame hada with chikei</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Ko-gunome-midare-hamon with togari, kinsuji, sunagashi</i>
<b>Horimono:</b>	<i>Long, full-length bo-hi (grooves) that are finished with kakudome (squared)</i>
<b>Certificate 1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> (designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation)
<b>Certificate 2:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Yûshûsaku</b> (a katana designated as Masterwork)
<b>Certificate 3:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteisho</b> (a koshirae and tsuba designated as Authentic)
<b>Fujishiro:</b>	<b>Jô-saku</b> (ranked as an above average swordsmith)
<b>Authentication:</b>	<b>Sayagaki by Kanzan-sensei</b> (Dr. Kanzan Satô)
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, longevity koshirae, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

First generation *Morihiro* was the son (or adopted son) of *Rai Kuniyasu* in *Yamashiro* (Kyôto). *Morihiro* was a representative swordsmith from *Chiyozuru school*, who took their sword-making skills to *Echizen province*. These groups of swordsmiths were known as '*Echizen Rai*'.

This long katana was surely carried on horseback as a *tachi* early in its life. It boasts a remarkable **78.8cm** cutting edge with a stunning *ko-gunome hamon* (small semi-circular temper line) along its 2.4cm curvature. Most impressively, the sword managed to escape being shortened after all this time. It is still in its original length made over 600 years ago. The sword's *shirasaya* has been authenticated by *Dr. Kanzan Satô*, former co-chairman of the NBTHK. It has also been spotlighted in the *NTHK-NPO Book of Yûshûsaku Masterwork swords*. A beautiful custom koshirae was built with a *Matsu* (pine) theme representing good fortune and longevity.



Saki-kasane: 4.3mm

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 775g

Kissaki: 2.69cm  
Saki-haba: 1.70cm

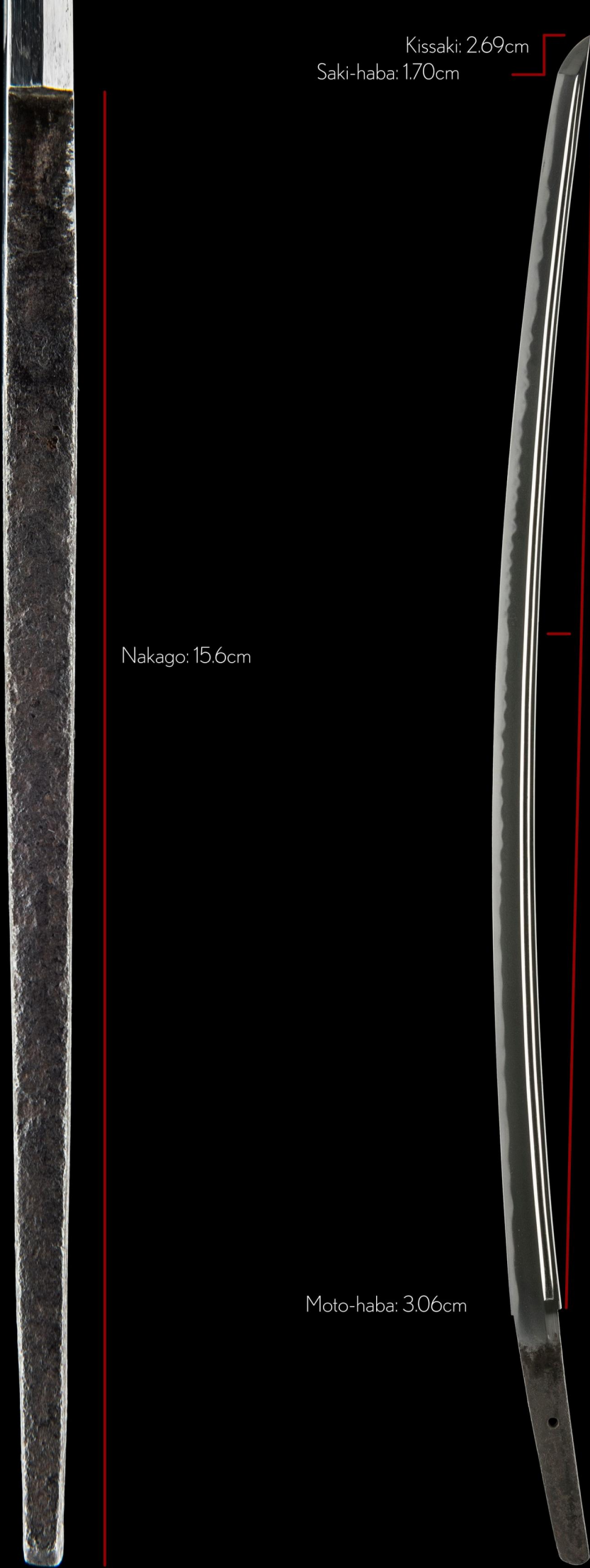
Nakago: 15.6cm

Moto-haba: 3.06cm

Nagasa: 78.8cm

Sori: 2.40cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



The *Morihiro* name lasted for about four generations until the early Muromachi period.

Swordmaking began in *Echizen* by *Chiyozuru Kuniyasu* in approximately 1337. This is where the school received the name *Chiyozuru*.

It is said that Kuniyasu was in search of the right spring water to forge his swords. He settled in *Takefu* in *Echizen*.

A premier steel crafting industry was born that never looked back, even to this day.






Location: *Echizen* (resident of Fukui)  
School name: *Chiyozuru*  
Swordsmith: *Morihiro* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

守 (Mori)

[弘] (hiro)



The *kakudome bo-hi* (squared end groove) stretching the full length of the sword forms an '*I-beam*' construction.

These grooves serve to lighten the sword while helping to absorb energy loads efficiently.

Clever.

(*ura*, reverse)

01201909

No 1012333



鑑定書

一刀 銘 守口(伝千代鶴)

長二尺六寸

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

令和元年十二月二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京都教育委員会  
第 320957 号  
令和1年7月20日

## 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 1st year of Reiwa (2019), December 2nd

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

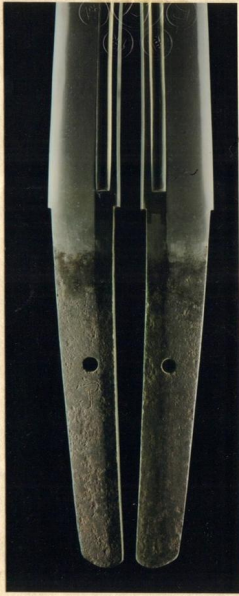
*Mori* □

(*Den Chiyozuru*)

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 6-sun (78.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

捺 査 印 員	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	鑑 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造り 込み	銘 文	第 六 〇 二 五 号
	志 永 頌			目釘穴 一個  鍔 勝 手 下 切		表裏 磨 種 目 上 丸 止 め	直 刀 先 掃 け 返 り	心 五 目 角 小 な 力 、 心 の 力 ま る い		鍔 目 録 れ て 誌 す	鑄 造 り  守 以 下 不 明	

## NTHK-NPO Yûshûsaku Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Yûshûsaku* (Highly Excellent Masterwork) by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

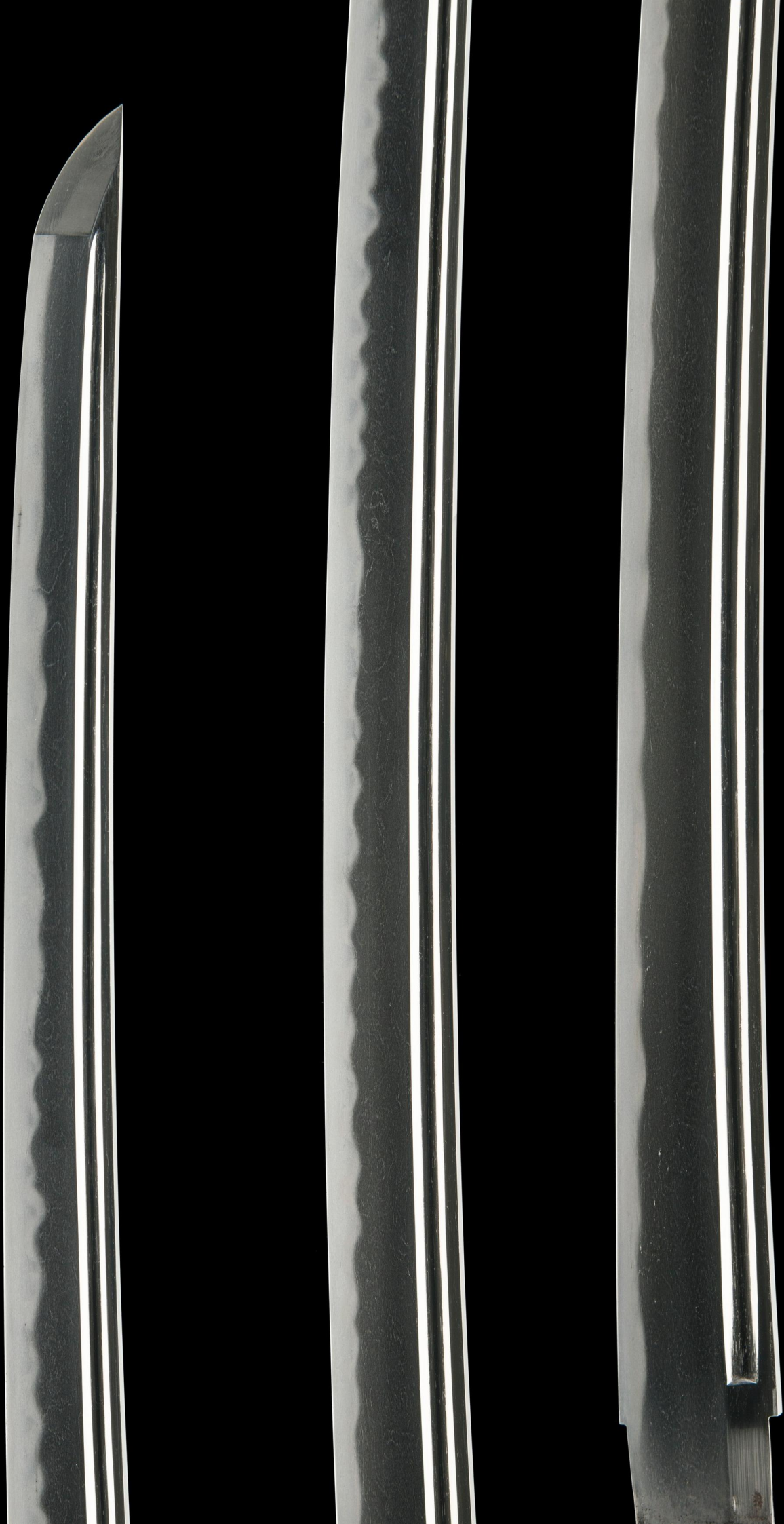
*Mei* (signature)  
*Mori ika fumei*

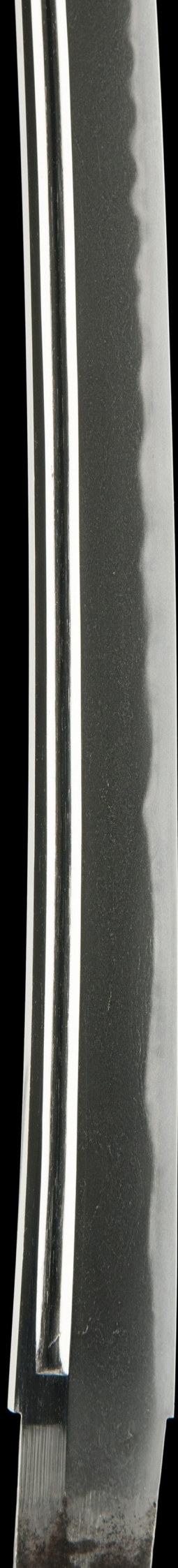
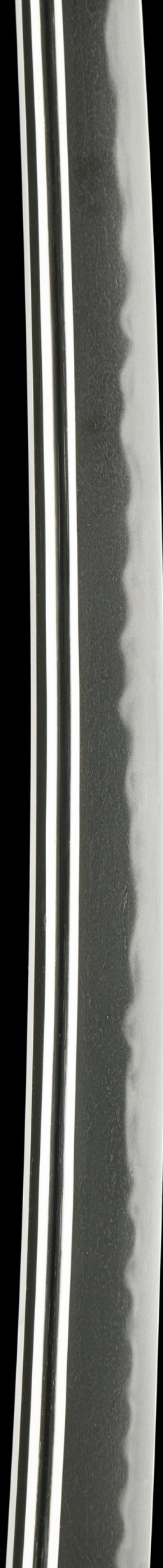
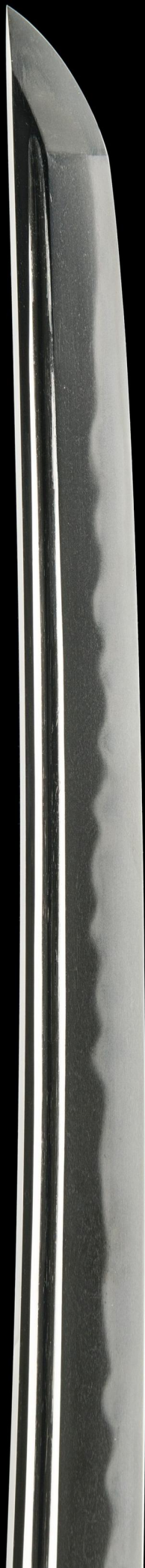
*Nagasa* (length)  
2-shaku 6-sun kore ari (78.8cm)

Issued in 26th year of Heisei (2014), December 14th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai  
(NTHK-NPO)

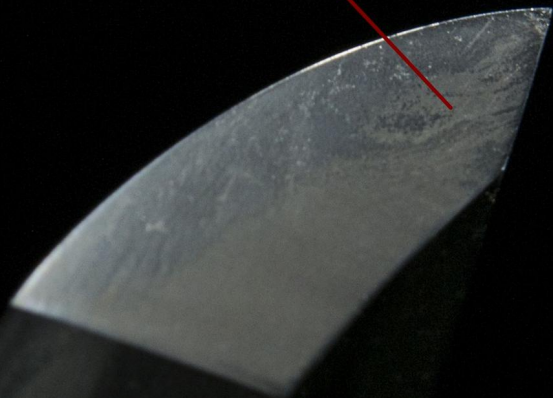
This sword has reached the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO.  
Five judges have stamped their names to the certificate.





The *hamon* in the tip of the sword is called the *boshi*.  
It takes great skill by the swordsmith.

The boshi on this sword is *hakikake*, literally 'sweeping'.



A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a sword blade. The blade is the central focus, showing a complex pattern of light and dark areas. A red line points from the text below to a specific area on the blade. The background is dark, making the blade stand out.

*Nagare-hada* mixed with a *itame* and *mokume-hada* that stands out to the eye.

Dark swirls of *chikei* can be admired in the *jihada*. This blade takes you back.

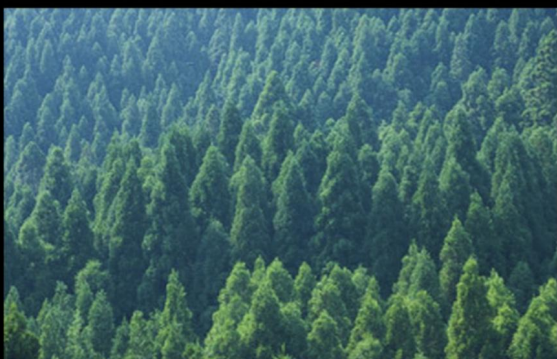


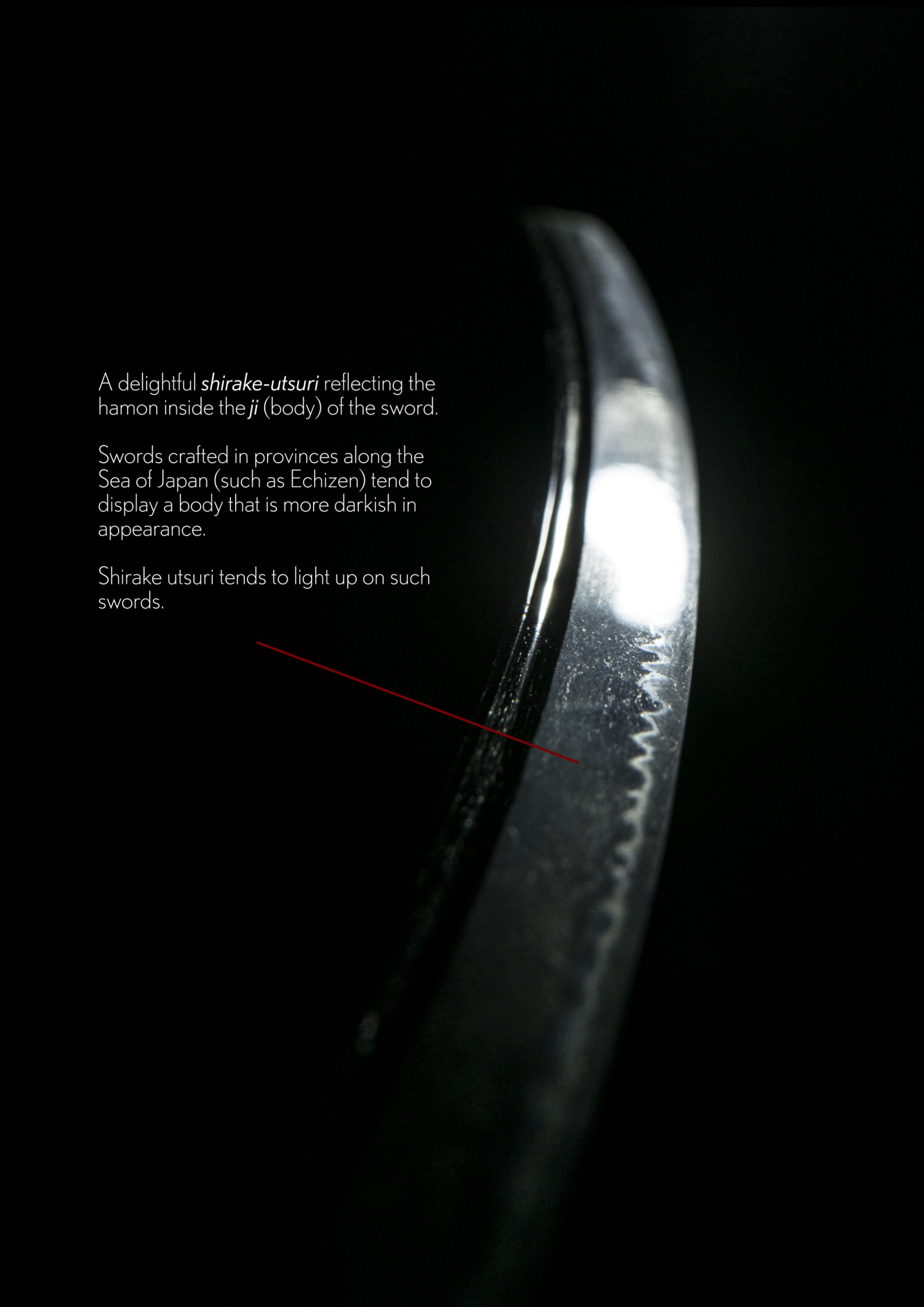
an impressive line of *kinsuji*  
rips through the hamon



This katana features a wavy *ko-gunome hamon* with *togari* (peaks) and valleys.

This hamon pattern is said to be inspired by magnificent cedar forest tree lines.



A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a sword blade. The blade is dark, with a bright, glowing hamon (edge) visible. A red line points to a specific feature on the blade, identified as shirake utsuri. The background is black.

A delightful *shirake-utsuri* reflecting the hamon inside the *ji* (body) of the sword.

Swords crafted in provinces along the Sea of Japan (such as Echizen) tend to display a body that is more darkish in appearance.

Shirake utsuri tends to light up on such swords.



*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

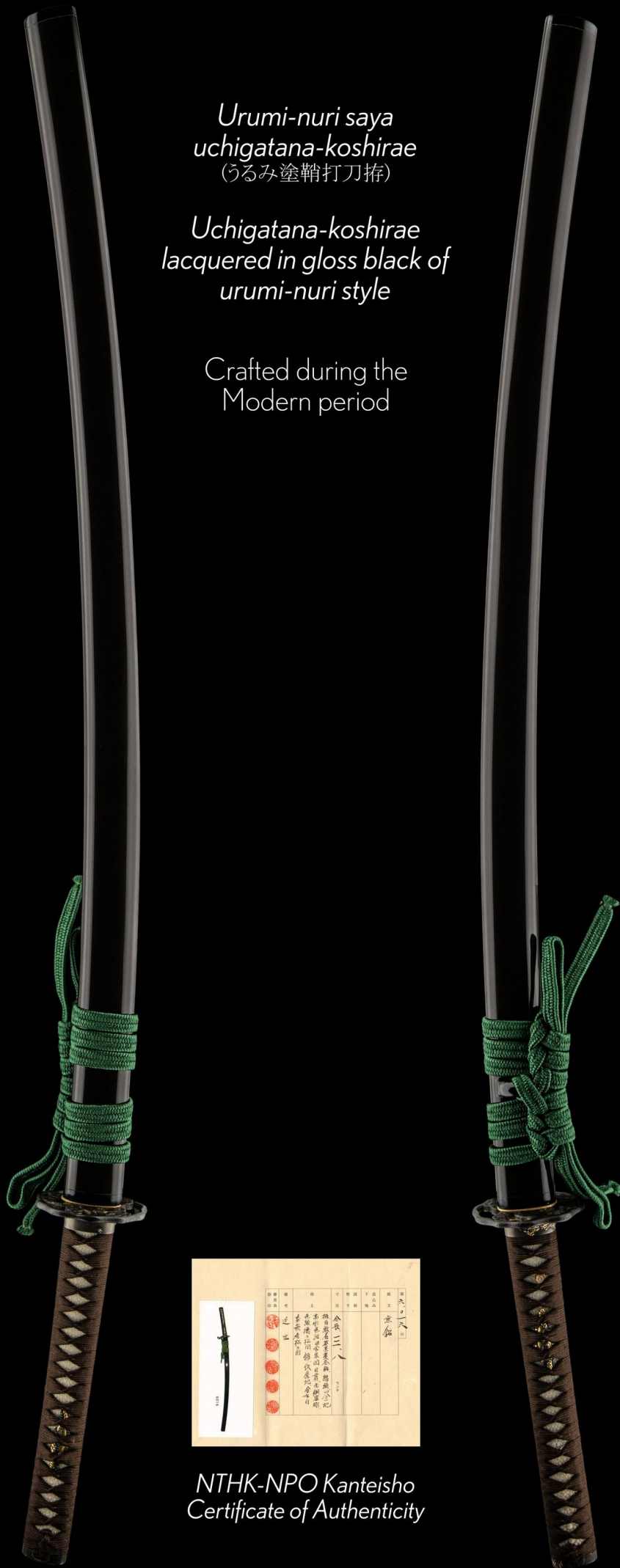


silver *habaki* with  
*kikko* (turtle shell) design

*Urumi-nuri saya  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(うるみ塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
lacquered in gloss black of  
urumi-nuri style*

Crafted during the  
Modern period



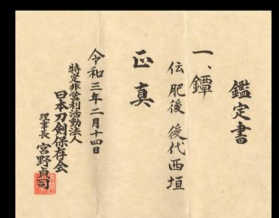
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity



This is a beautiful polished iron tsuba crafted in the unique shape of twisted branches of a *matsu* (pine) tree.

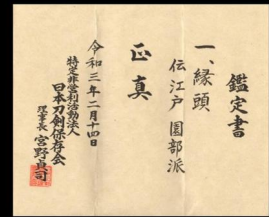
Pine trees are also associated with the New Year in Japan. It is customary to hang a bundle of pine twigs and bamboo trunks known as a *kado matsu* (gate pine) on doors to receive blessings from the gods.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributes the tsuba to the work of a latter generation of the *Nishigaki school* from *Higo province*, late Edo period (1780~1867).





(reverse)



In Japan, *matsu* (pine tree) is a symbol of longevity, virtue, and youth. They are also associated with masculinity and power.

Matsu means "*waiting for the soul of a god to descend from heaven*". In ancient Japanese Shinto beliefs, gods were said to have ascended to heaven on a pine tree, where they now reside on a beautiful volcanic mountain in giant, old trees.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributes the fuchi-kashira to the work of the *Sonobe school in Edo province, late Edo period (1780~1867)*.





*Kashira* (pommel) depicting a  
*matsu* (pine tree)



Koshirae bag