



ITEM# UJKA141

## A YOSHIHIRA KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (JOKYO ERA: 1684-1688)

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>Swordsmith:</b>  | <b>Bushu Ju Fujiwara YOSHIHIRA</b>  |
| <b>Location:</b>    | Musashi province (modern-day Tokyo)   |
| <b>Length:</b>      | 68.2cm (suriage)  |
| <b>Curvature:</b>   | 0.7cm   |
| <b>Moto-haba:</b>   | 2.9cm   |
| <b>Jihada:</b>      | <i>Itame</i> (wood grain pattern)   |
| <b>Hamon:</b>       | <i>Choji midare</i>   |
| <b>Certificate:</b> | <b>NBTHK Hozon</b> (a sword designated as <i>Worthy of Conservation</i> by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)    |
| <b>Included:</b>    | Edo period koshirae, brocade carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork |

## SOLD

Swordsmith Yoshihira was a proud member of the Edo Ishido School and apprenticed under notable smith Mitsuhiro. In typical Bizen tradition, this strong katana is blessed with a striking *choji midare hamon*.

The Ishido School originated at the Sekido Temple in Omi Province around the Kanei period (1624). From there smiths travelled to various sections of the country propagating the famed expertise of the Bizen Ichimonji School, of which they claim dependency from.

Some smiths went to Kii Province and came to be known as the *Kii Ishido*. Others went to Edo, modern-day Tokyo, and the most famous of these being *Ishido Musashi Korekazu*.

This katana carries only slight curvature, a popular construction for swords of the Shinto period. The nakago was shortened to suit a previous owner's stature. This is definitely a fighting sword for it is said that straight swords can cut and manoeuvre extremely well.

Full koshirae fittings adorn the sword with Imperial family chrysanthemums lining the *shakudo* and gold *fuchi* (collar). The iron *tsuba* (guard) depicts a classic wave motif called *seigaiha*. This pattern represents waves lapping the seashore. Since the sea is a source of life and its waves neither change shape nor stop repeating, it is a pattern that brings good fortune many times over.

The katana comes with NBTHK Hozon papers attesting to the authenticity of the signature.

