

ITEM# UJKA153

A CHIKUZEN YOSHIMASA KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith: Chikuzen Ju Minamoto Nobukuni YOSHIMASA (2nd generation)
Location: Chikuzen province (Kyushu)
Length: 75.2cm (tsuba)
Curvature: 1.8cm
Moto-haba: 3.0cm
Hamon: Gunome Midare
Jihada: Koitame
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)
Fujishiro: Jo-saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya, sword fabric bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and export paperwork, Yushuto Catalogue book

SOLD

The ancestor of the Shinto-era *Chikuzen Nobukuni School* was **Nobukuni Yoshisada** who referred to himself as the 12th generation Nobukuni by way of Yamashiro province (Kyoto) to Chikuzen province.

Chikuzen province has a long and distinguished history dating back to the Warrior Monks of the Kongobyoe School of the early Koto period.

Yoshisada's eldest son **Yoshimasa** was meant to succeed the school however his father "disinherited" him when he packed up his bags at the age of 26 to study the Bizen tradition of the Ichimonji School under Sukemune.

Yoshisada was an adamant proponent of the Yamashiro and Soshu sword traditions, and clearly 'no son of his' was going to bring Bizen into the mix! Succession thus went to his younger brothers **Yoshimasa 2nd generation** (maker of this katana) and **Yoshitsugu**.

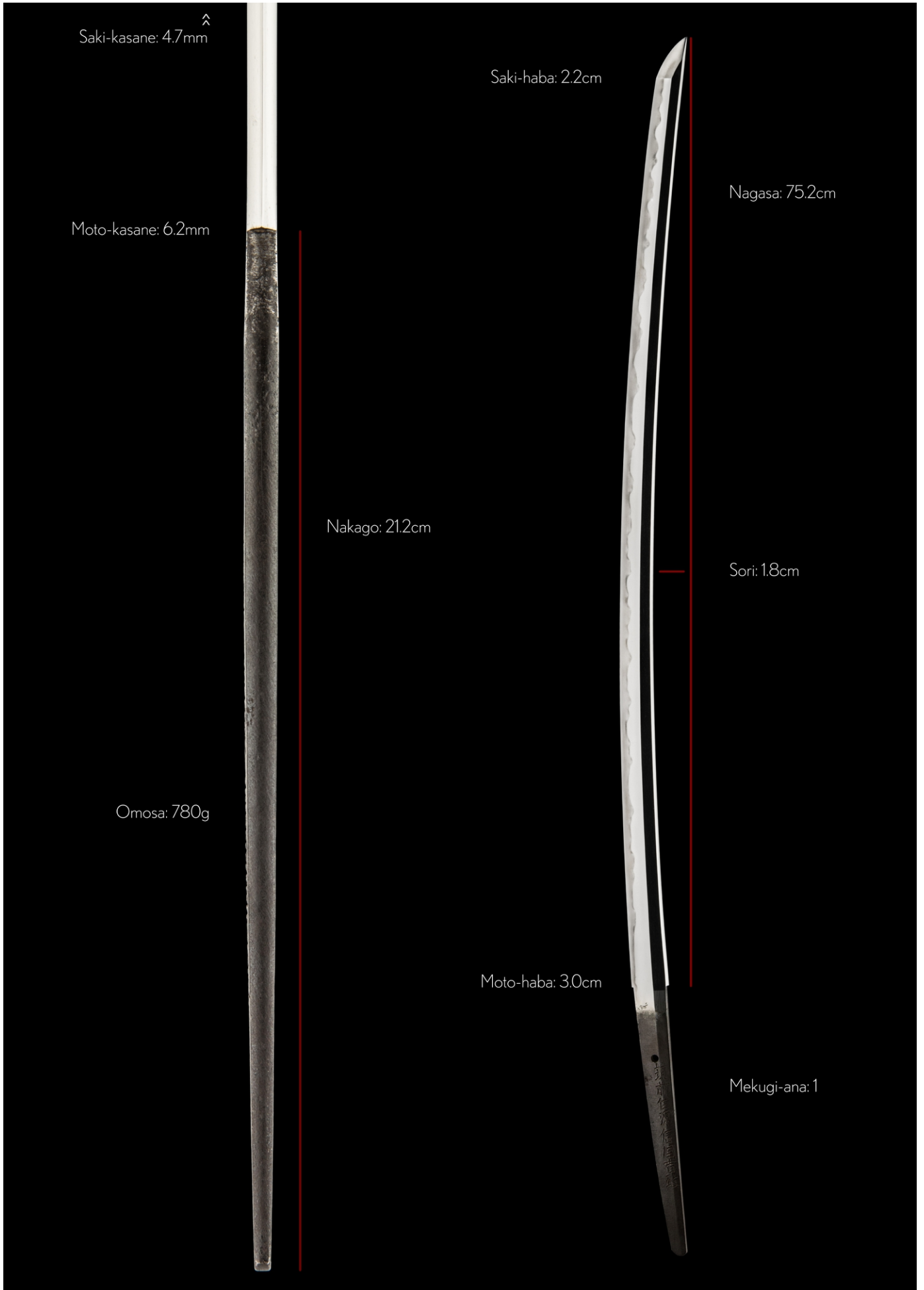
With a cutting edge of 75.2cm and a healthy *mihaba*, this is one seriously impressive katana. The *hamon* is a dazzling *gunome-midare* with a *jihada* that is exceptionally well-forged.

Fujishiro ranks Yoshimasa as a *Jo-saku* (superior) smith. And it's easy to see why. This is a Samurai sword of immense quality and collectibility. The katana has deservedly achieved NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon distinctions.

This sword is currently in shirasaya only. A custom koshirae project is highly recommended to personalize this sword for the family who will take over ownership responsibilities.

Photos and information follow.







Province: Chikuzen

Clan: Minamoto

School: Chikuzen Nobukuni

Smith: Yoshimasa

筑前住源信国吉政

Chiku

zen

ju

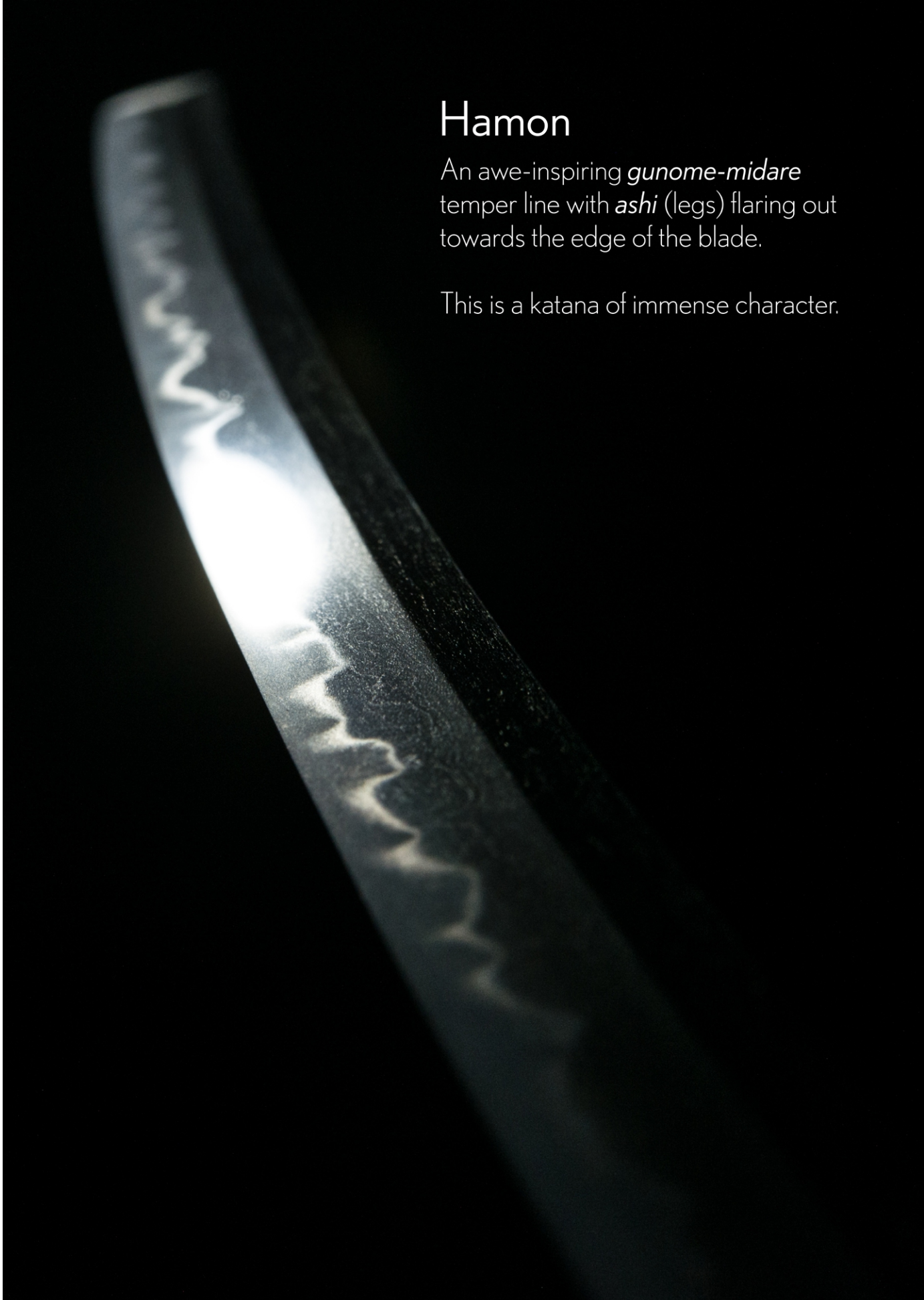
Minamoto

Nobu

kuni

Yoshi

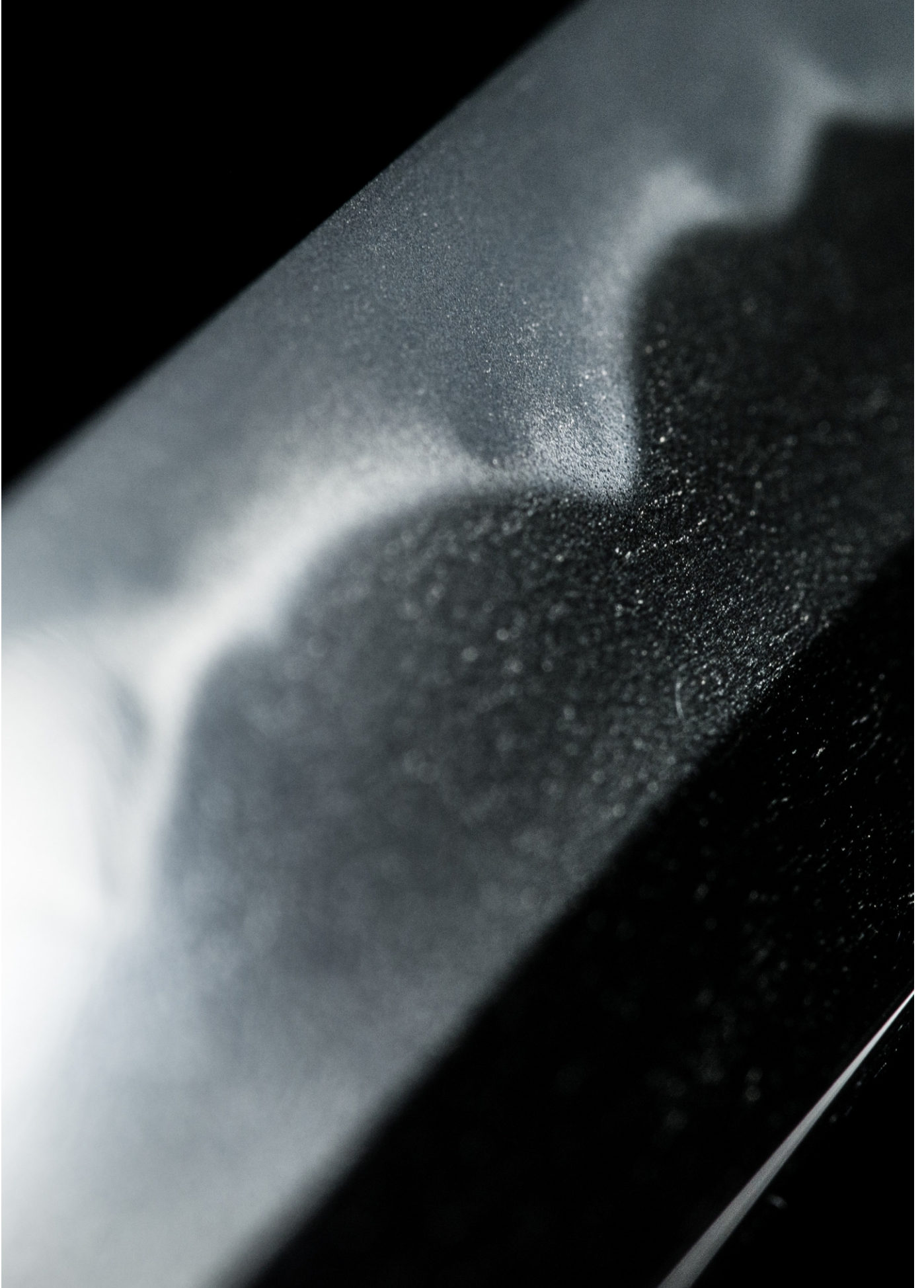
masa

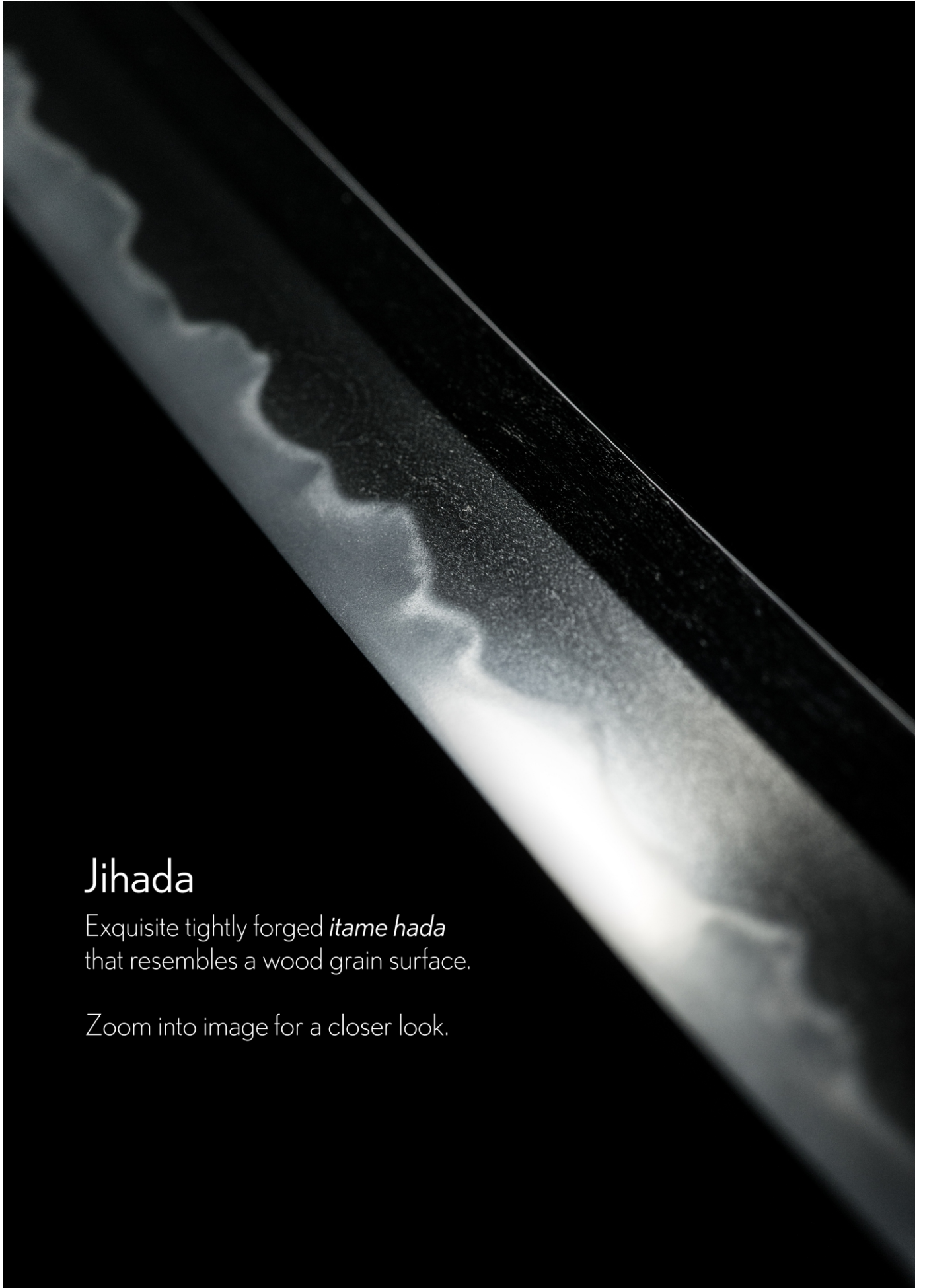


Hamon

An awe-inspiring *gunome-midare* temper line with *ashi* (legs) flaring out towards the edge of the blade.

This is a katana of immense character.

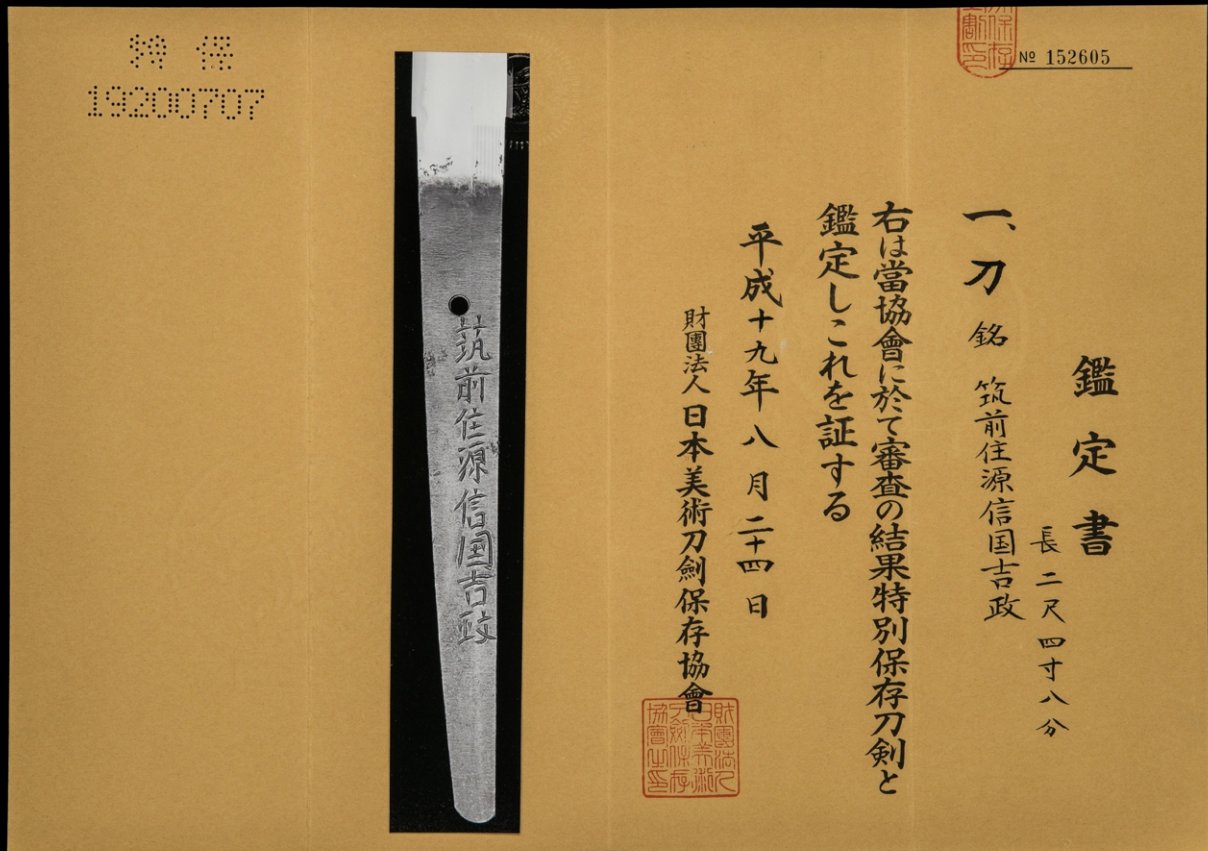




Jihada

Exquisite tightly forged *itame hada* that resembles a wood grain surface.

Zoom into image for a closer look.



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 19th year of Heisei (2007), August 24th

One, Katana

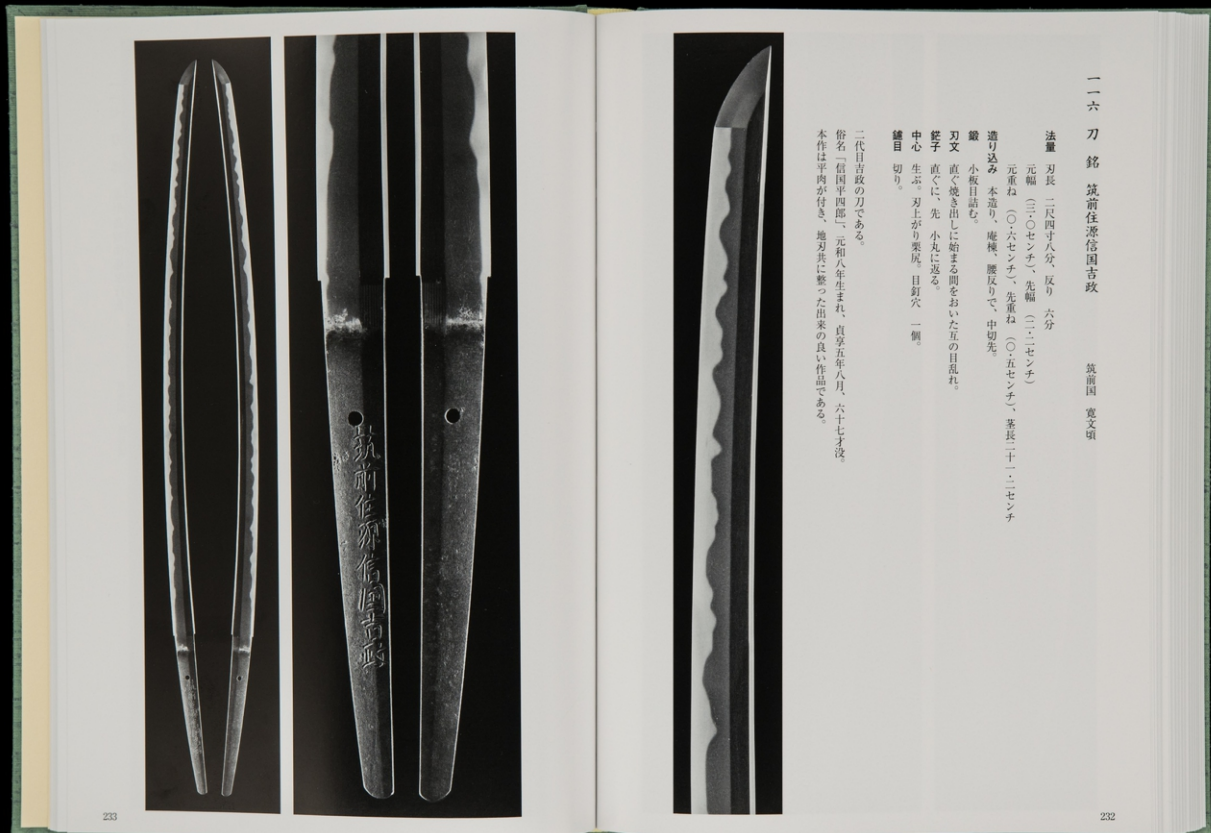
Mei (signature)

Chikuzen Ju Minamoto Nobukuni Yoshimasa

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 4-sun 8-bu (75.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



This katana by second generation smith Chikuzen Nobukuni Yoshimasa has achieved NTHK-NPO Yushusaku, the highest degree of honour at the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword, issued July 23rd, 2014.

The sword is featured in the society's first edition printed Yushuto Catalogue. of Japanese swords. The book will be included with ownership of the sword.



Steps to Building Your Own Koshirae

*Many fine antique Samurai swords today come stored only in a shirasaya.
A shirasaya acts like a humididor, 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)



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!