



ITEM# UJKA161

A SHOHEI KATANA

SIGNED AND DATED HEISEI 23 CHUKA (SUMMER OF 2011)

Swordsmith: *Seitan SHOHEI*
Location: Saitama prefecture
Length: 83.4cm (!)
Curvature: 2.7cm
Motohaba: 3.3cm
Blade weight: 1.04kg
Jihada: *Ko-itame and nagare-hada*
Hamon: *Gunome midare with sunagashi and kinsuji*
Included: Custom koshirae, shirasaya, special sword box, sword fabric bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, care guide, registration and export paperwork

SOLD

This incredible katana with a cutting edge of a whopping **83.4cm** pays enormous tribute to the swords made during the warring Nambokucho period (1333-1392). Swords made during this turbulent time were renowned for having an extremely long cutting edge. As a matter of fact, this is the longest sword we have ever offered our clients at Unique Japan.

Modern swordsmith *Shohei* of the Miyairi School would have been about 40 years old when he made this sword in 2011. He has a very promising career ahead of him as many of his swords have already achieved high levels of recognition and prizes.

Two generations before him lived maestro **Miyairi Shohei** (below), a former Living National Treasure in Japan. The school is known for their brilliant work in the Soshu tradition.

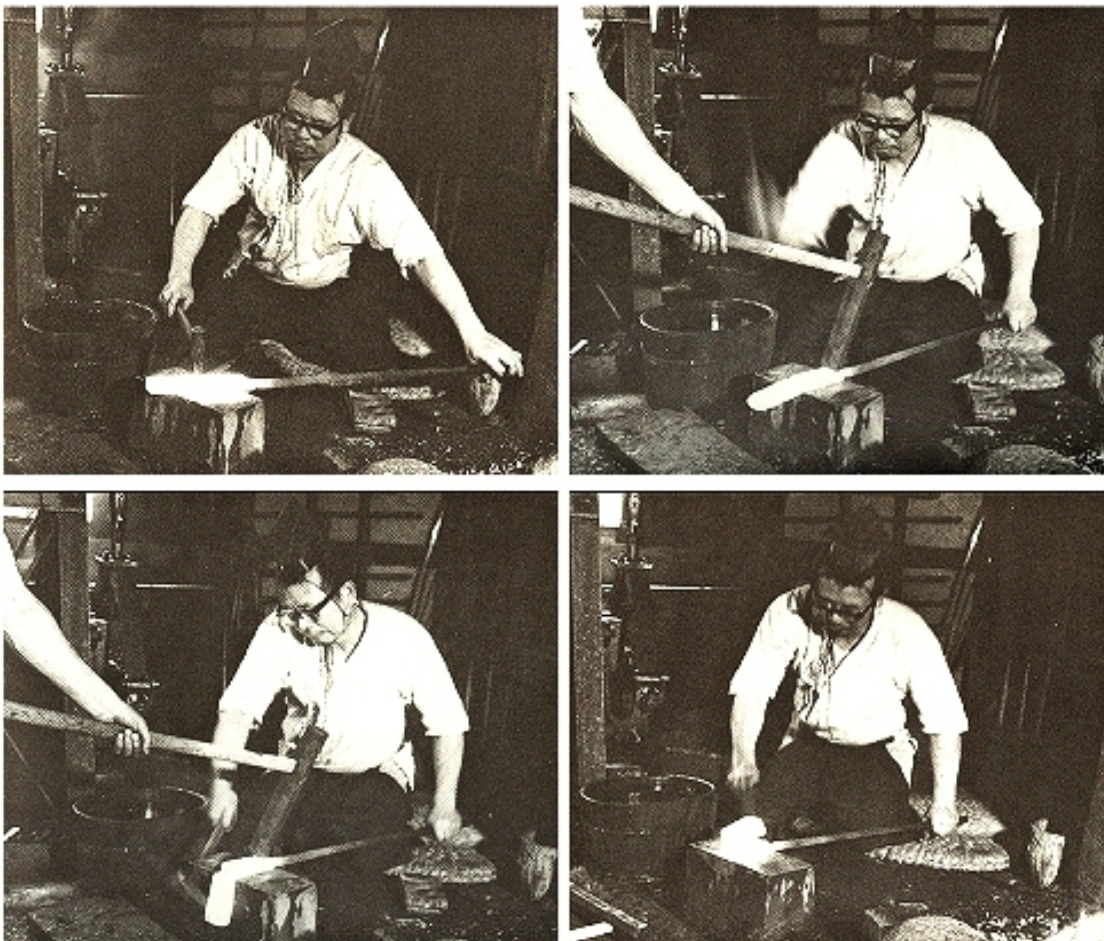
Investment wise, this katana could very well become much more valuable in future as Shohei's artistic reputation grows over time. Note the incredible curvature on the sword, what magnificent shape this sword carries with grace and elegance.

The beautiful *ko-gunome* hamon features *sunagashi* (sweeping sand) and *kinsuji*, dark shiny lines. The steel is a well-forged *ko-itame* hada with *nagare-hada* flowing on the blade. Notice how the *mune* (spine) features a flat roof, known as *mitsu-mune*, or three sides.

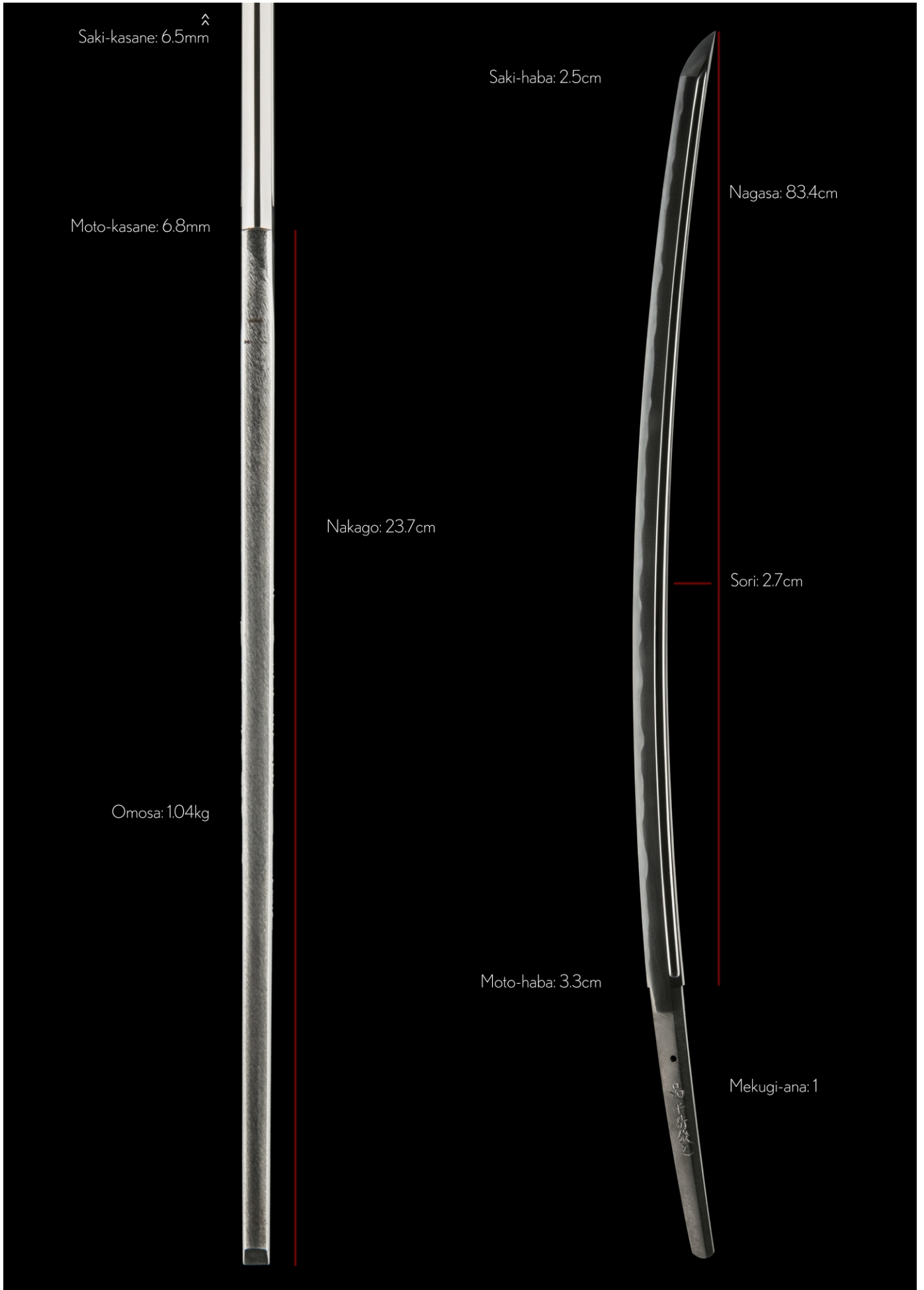
The gorgeous *koshirae* has a saya made in Satsuma *koshirae* tradition. The *tsuba* depicts cherry and plum blossoms in geometric patterns crafted by Shohei himself.

The swordsmith, polisher and *koshirae* maker are all credited inside a custom made box that accompanies the sword as a form of authenticity. As policy, the NBTHK and NTHK-NPO do not issue certificates of authenticity for smiths that are living.

Photos and information follow.



Miyairi Shohei



Saki-kasane: 6.5mm[^]

Saki-haba: 2.5cm

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Nagasa: 83.4cm

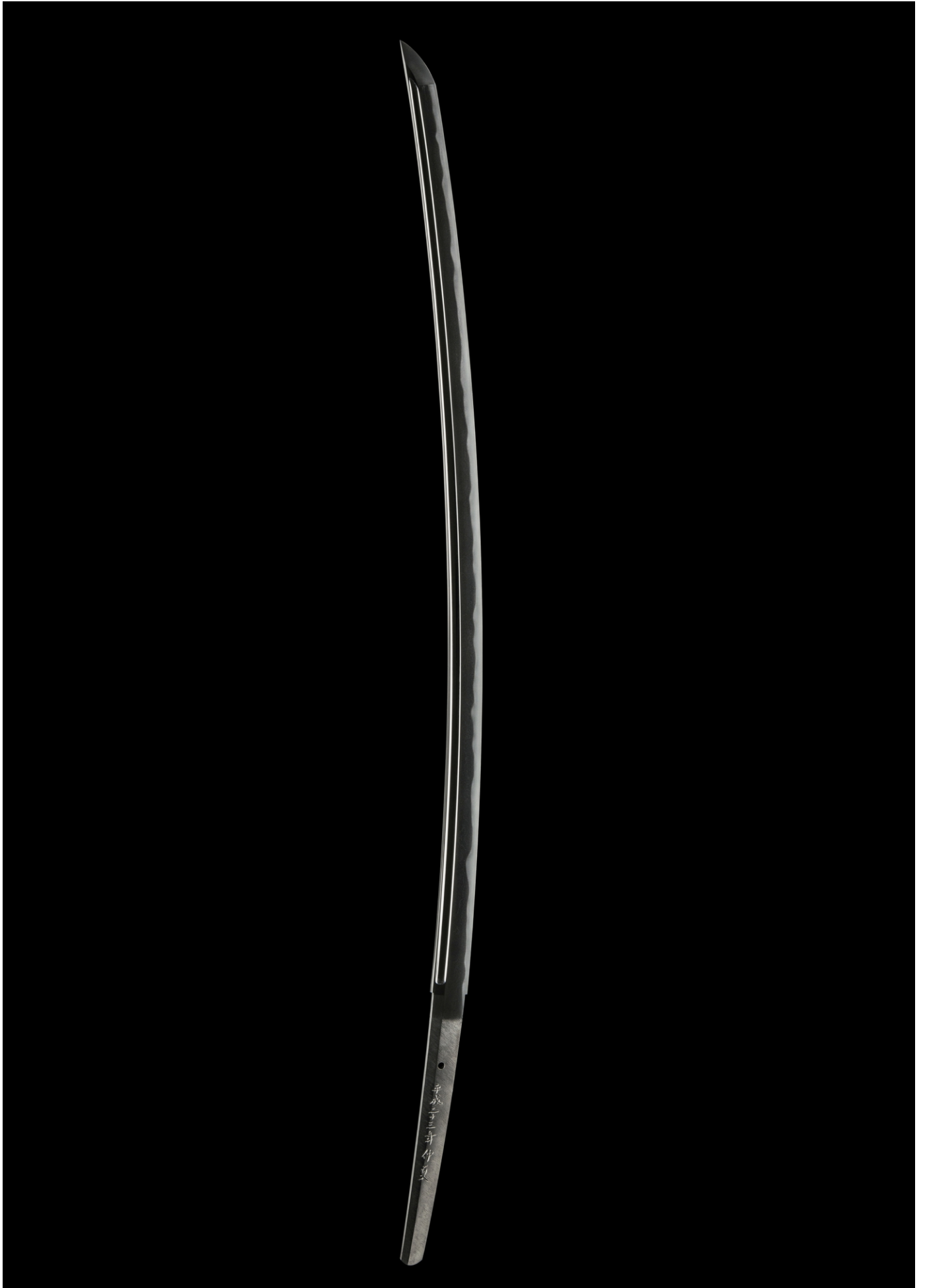
Nakago: 23.7cm

Sori: 2.7cm

Omosa: 1.04kg

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Prefecture: Saitama
Seitan: (forged by)
Smith: Shohei

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*Sho
hei
Sei
tan
kore*



Era: Heisei
Year: 23rd (2011)
Season: Mid-Summer

Hei
sei
2 x 10
+ 3
nen
Chu
ka





Mitsu-mune

Mitsu (three) *mune* (spine/ridge) has three surfaces and is generally found in the blades of smiths working of the *Soshu* (Kanagawa prefecture) and related schools, as well as in the tanto of the Yamashiro school such as *Rai Kunitoshi* from the Kamakura period.

Mitsu-mune is rarely found in sword construction - a most welcomed feature to this formidable sword.

Jihada

A gorgeous *nagare-hada*
(literally "stream grain pattern")
swims along the body of the
steel blade.

Kinsuji
shiny black line in the *hamon*

Hamon

A brilliantly compact *gunome-midare* temper line (semi-circular waves in random motion) blesses the sword.

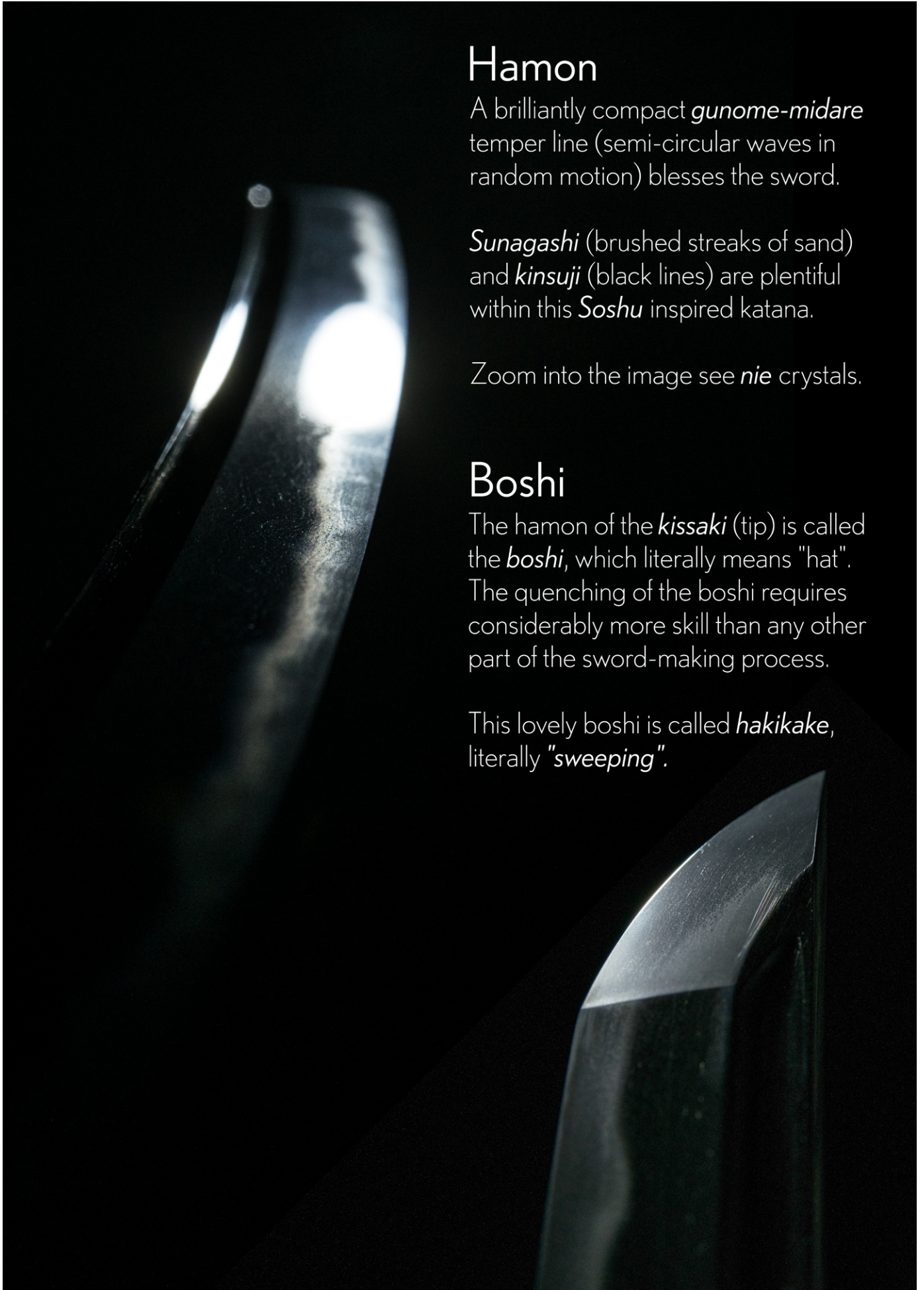
Sunagashi (brushed streaks of sand) and *kinsuji* (black lines) are plentiful within this *Soshu* inspired katana.

Zoom into the image see *nie* crystals.

Boshi

The hamon of the *kissaki* (tip) is called the *boshi*, which literally means "hat". The quenching of the boshi requires considerably more skill than any other part of the sword-making process.

This lovely boshi is called *hakikake*, literally "sweeping".



CHANGES IN THE SHAPE OF THE JAPANESE SWORD **



Nambokucho Period (1330-1389)

The shape of swords from the Nambokucho period were very long with some *o-dachi* longer than 120cm. A very wide *mihaba* (width), with little difference in width between the *moto-haba* and the *saki-haba*.

This remarkable katana (tachi) by *Miyairi Shohei* is an excellent recreation of such glorious swords.

Nambokucho Period
(Koto times) : 1330 - 1389

** image source: NBTHK



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



Mito-habaki
(silver)





Tsuba

The brushed iron *tsuba* (guard) signed by the swordsmith himself, is a thoughtfully precise creation of *sakura* (cherry) and *ume* (plum) petals in bloom.

These shapes symbolize the fleeting transience of life. Appreciate the moment, for life is a series of moments to be cherished.

The larger image above is signed
Kyo-fu saku (made in the Kyoto style).



Shohei Kitae Kore
(by swordsmith Shohei)





Man on Umbrella

A temple guardian takes a rest...
Likely crafted by the Goto School, late Edo period.



This Shohei katana comes with its own custom *katana-bako* (sword box).

The box reads:
Cho Wa (harmony)

Shohei Seitan Kore
Heisei 23-nen Chuka

The names of the polisher, koshirae
and tsuba maker are listed as well.



*"Look deep into nature,
and then you will
understand everything
better."*

Albert Einstein

