



**ITEM# UJKA163**

## A NAKATA KANEHIDE KATANA SIGNED, MIDDLE SHOWA ERA (CIRCA WWII)

- Swordsmith:** *Noshu Ju KANEHIDE*  
**Location:** Saitama prefecture  
**Length:** 70.8cm (*machi-okuri nakago*)  
**Curvature:** 2.2cm  
**Motohaba:** 3.2cm  
**Sakihaba:** 2.1cm  
**Jihada:** *Ko-itame*  
**Hamon:** *High yaki and gorgeous choji-midare*  
**Certificate #1:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)  
**Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*a koshirae designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)  
**Ranking:** **Rikugun Jumei Tosho** (*certified swordsmith from Army headquarters of Japan during wartime*)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, sword fabric bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, care guide, registration and export paperwork

**SOLD**

Superstar gendai swordsmith **Nakata Kanehide** was born **Isamu Nakata** on August 24th 1913 (Taisho 2) in Nagano prefecture.

He apprenticed under 12th generation Kawashima Masahide for 8 years and then became the pupil of the smith Watanabe Kanenaga in Seki city, Gifu prefecture in 1937.

Kanehide is said to have gifted a sword in 1943 to **Hideki Tojo** who was general of the Imperial Japanese Army, leader of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and the 40th Prime Minister of Japan during much of World War II.

After the WWII, Kanehide won numerous awards commencing in 1955 at Japanese Sword Fine Art Contests held by the NBTHK winning the *Doryoku Award* three times and the *Nyusen Award* eight times.

He also was bestowed the honor of making swords for the Emperor and Empress Showa in 1957. Kanehide became an **Important Intangible Cultural Asset** of Seki city in 1976 and a year later the same honours of Gifu prefecture.

This katana was likely crafted when he was **Rikugun Jumei Toshō**, a certified swordsmith from Army headquarters of Japan during wartime.

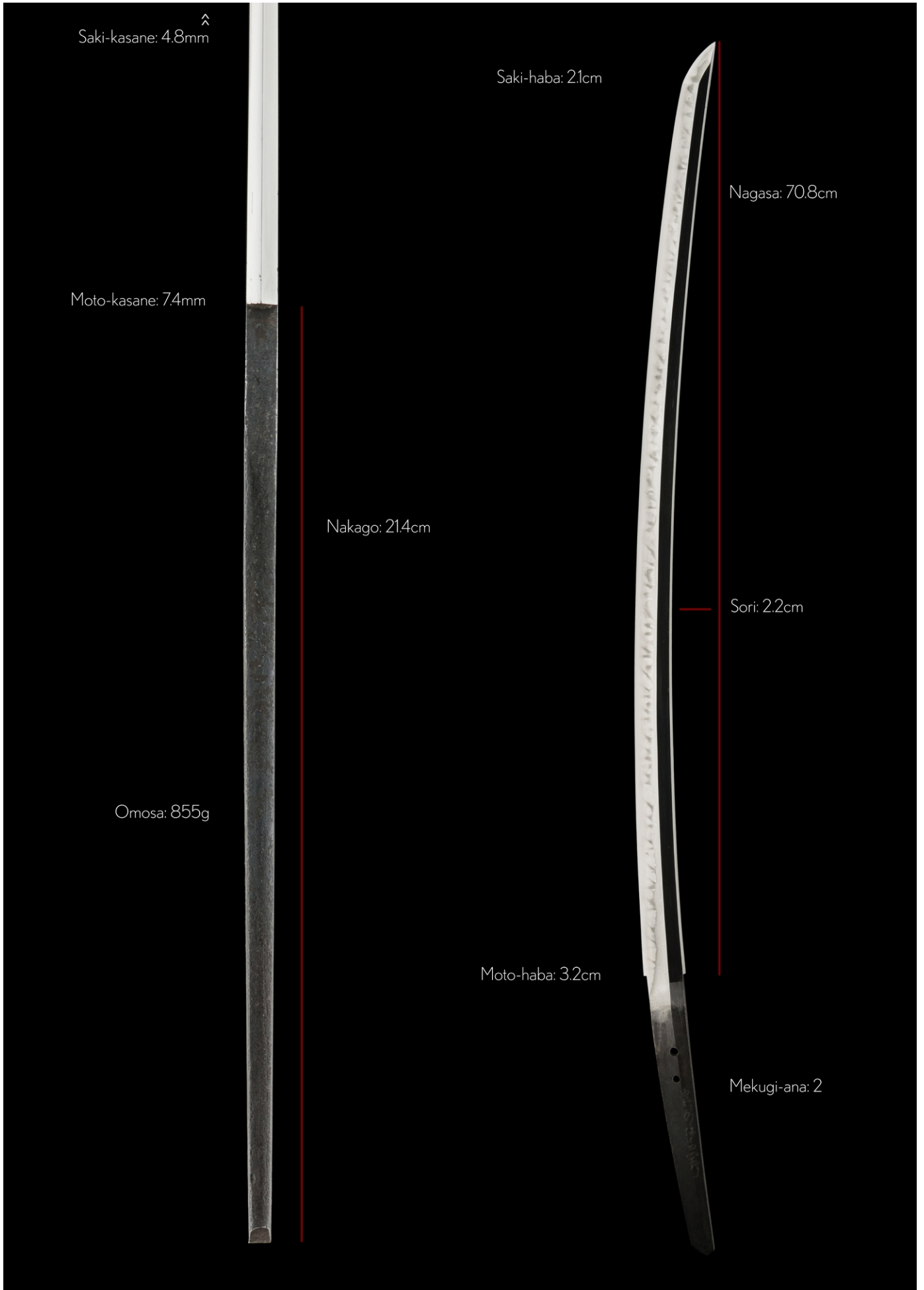
The *choji-midare hamon* is absolutely stunning. This is a sword that demonstrates all the greatness that one would expect from such a valiant emblem of 20th century Japan craftsmanship.

The length and curvature would make it an ideal sword for someone practicing Iaido. The *koshirae* is thoughtfully crafted, fits tightly, and adorned with nature-inspired fittings.

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification that accompanies the sword attests to the fact traditional techniques were used to forge the katana. There will also be an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate for the *koshirae* fittings.

Photos and information follow. Below is a photo of the traditional brocade bag for the sword.









Prefecture: Gifu  
Ward: Noshu (living in)  
Smith: Kanehide

No  
shu  
ju  
Kane  
hide

## Hamon

The NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate describes the *hamon* as:

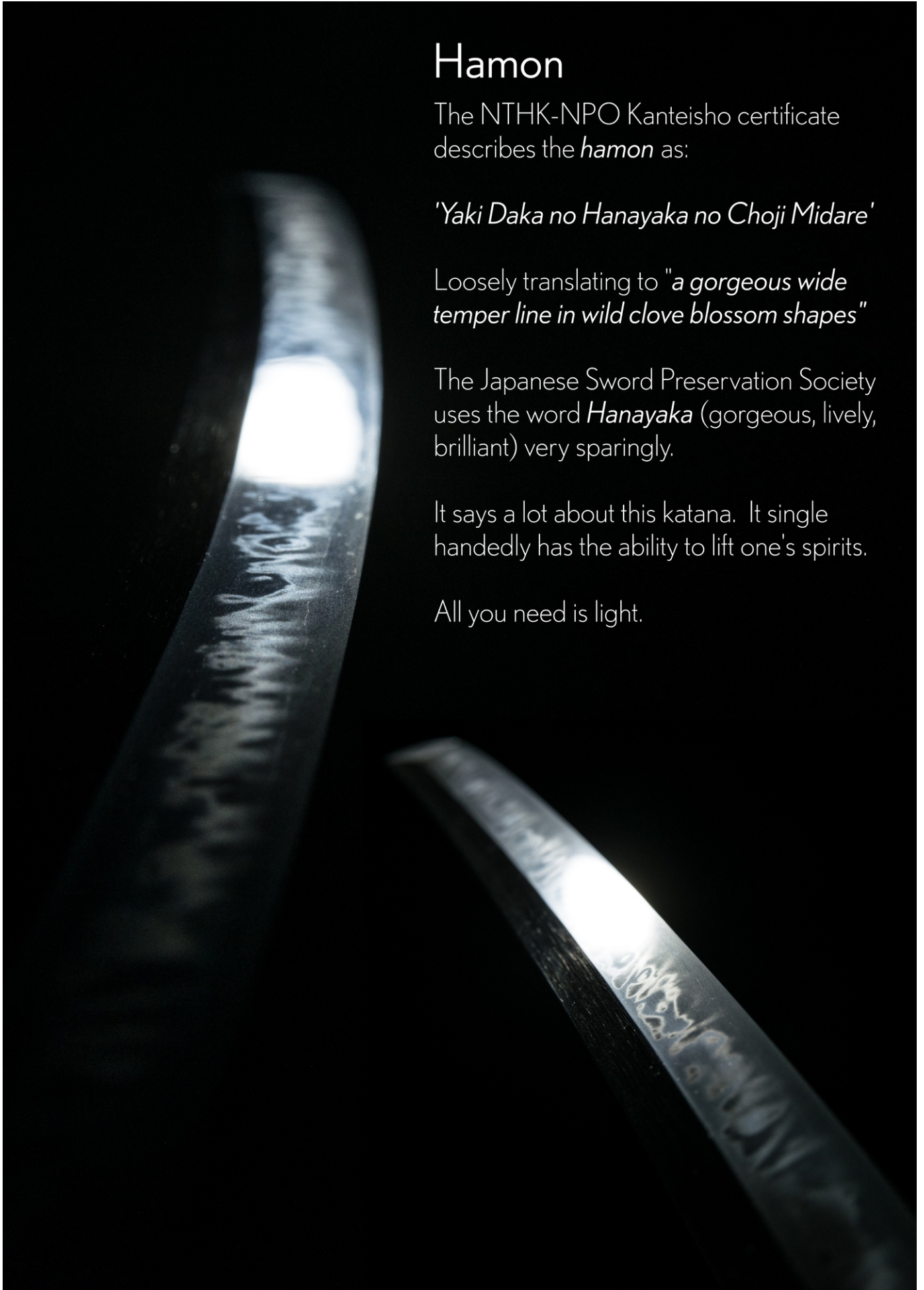
*'Yaki Daka no Hanayaka no Choji Midare'*

Loosely translating to "a gorgeous wide temper line in wild clove blossom shapes"

The Japanese Sword Preservation Society uses the word *Hanayaka* (gorgeous, lively, brilliant) very sparingly.

It says a lot about this katana. It single handedly has the ability to lift one's spirits.

All you need is light.





## Ashi

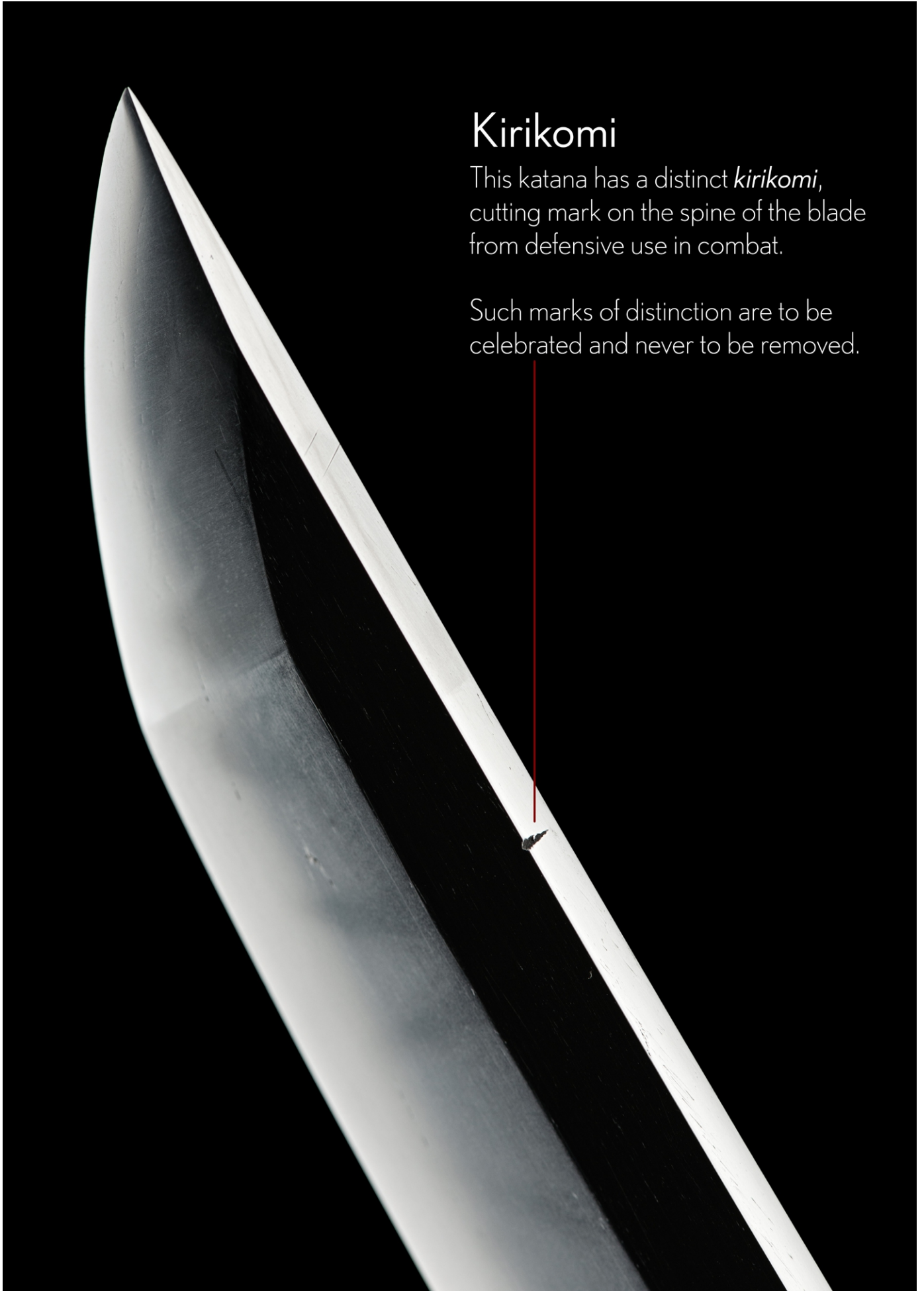
*Ashi* are "legs" - thin lines of *nioi* crystals (very fine crystals that resemble the Milky Way) that extend from the *hamon* to the cutting edge.

*Ashi* serve the purpose of limiting the size of lateral cracks at the edge of the blade should damage occur.

## Kirikomi

This katana has a distinct *kirikomi*, cutting mark on the spine of the blade from defensive use in combat.

Such marks of distinction are to be celebrated and never to be removed.





*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



*Hitoe-habaki*  
(painted on copper)





## Tsuba

An iron *mokko* shaped (4-lobed) *tsuba* prominently signed *Sadahiro*.

The design is that of tadpoles in gold inlay swimming along the surface.

Tadpoles are seen as symbol of luck and abundance.





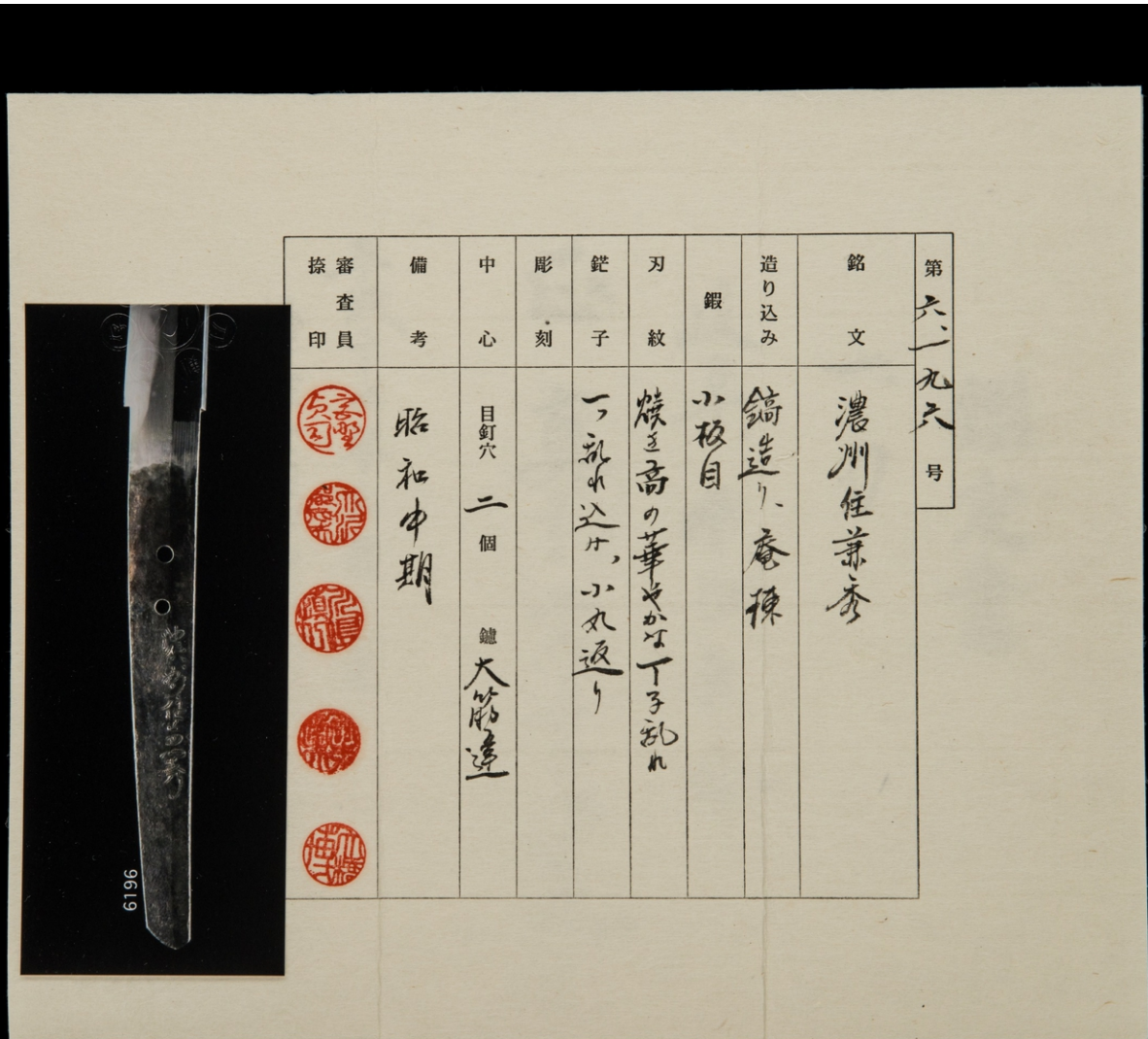


## Menuki

The *menuki* (grips under the silk) are of peonies, known as the 'King of Flowers'. A symbol of good fortune, bravery and honour.

The *tsuka-maki* (wrapping of the silk) is a beautifully complex braid known as *ajirokumi-agemaki*.





## NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate (sword)

The NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity for the blade itself. This certificate attests to the authenticity and importance of conserving this sword.

Each numbered certificate, made of traditional washi paper, carries a photograph of the *nakago* (tang). The red *hankos* are the individual stamps of each experienced judge that personally reviewed the sword.

The certificate provides useful information on the characteristics of blade such as the *mei* (signature, if present), *suguta* (structure), *hamon* (temper line), *jigane* (surface grain), *boshi* (tip temper line), *nakago* (tang) and its estimated age.

*Non-Profit Nihon Token Hozon Kai*  
The Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

*Kiri motif with vines*



Spiritual growth