



ITEM# UJKA175

## A MASATSUGU KATANA

SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (KAEI ERA: A GOOD DAY IN FEBRUARY 1854)

- Swordsmith:** *Suishinshi Fujiwara Masatsugu*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 71.8cm (ubuh)      **Curvature:** 1.0cm      **Moto-haba:** 3.29cm
- Jihada:** *Koitame*
- Hamon:** *Gunome choji midare, long ashi, sunagashi, kinsuji*
- 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)
- Authenticity:** **Sayagaki by Tanobe sensei**
- Fujishiro:** **Jo-saku** (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
- Included:** Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

# SOLD

Behold a late Edo period gem by one of the most celebrated swordsmiths of the Shinshinto period, *Suishinshi Masatsugu*. The unique structure of this katana being doubled edged near the *kissaki* (tip area) was inspired by the imperial treasure *Kogarasu-maru tachi* from the 8th century by *Amakuni*. This is one very sharp, muscular sword. The *hamon* carries an abundance of *hataraki* (activity) to admire with beautiful long *ashi* (legs). Certification includes NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon, NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and comprehensive *sayagaki* by Tanobe sensei.

Saki-kasane: 6.5mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 8.0mm

Omosa: 910g

Saki-haba: 2.5cm

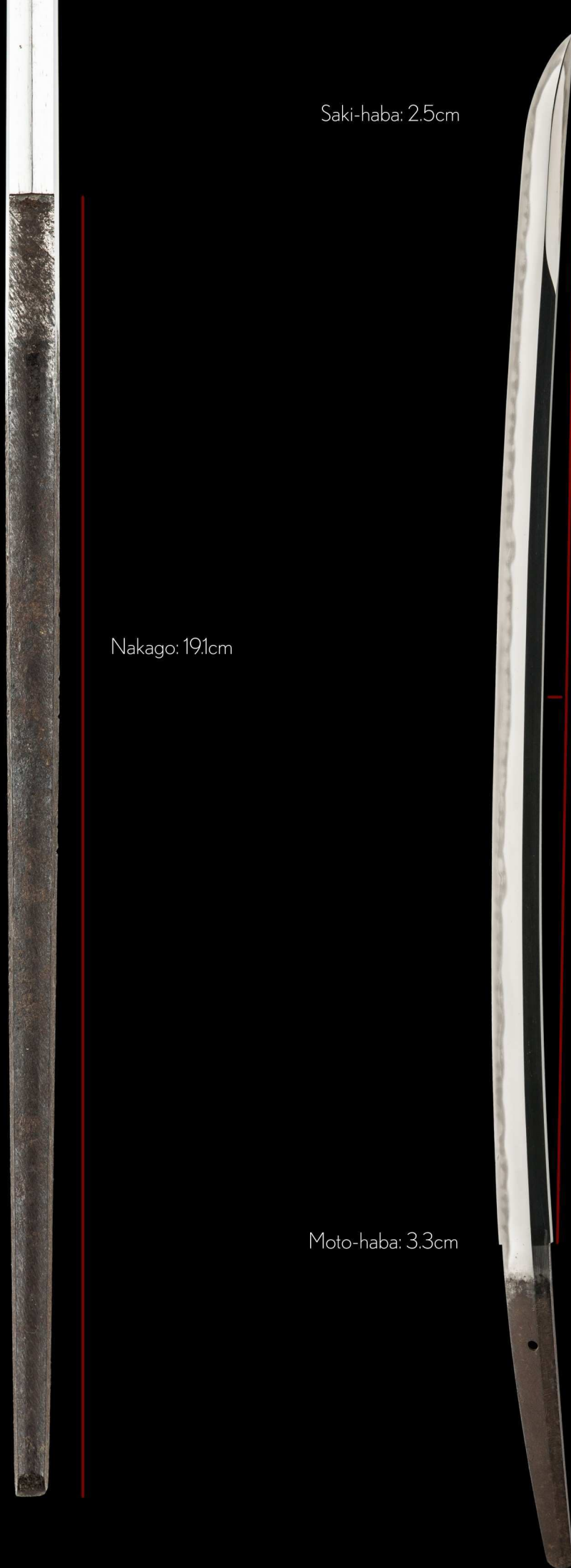
Nakago: 19.1cm

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Nagasa: 71.8cm

Sori: 1.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





The unique shape of the katana is called *kissaki-moroha-zukuri*, whereby the sword is double-edged near the *kissaki* (tip).

This shape was inspired by the great *Kogarasu-maru* (right) meaning "little crow", the most important sword of study in Japanese history.

The tachi is attributed to swordsmith *Amakuni Yasutsuna* from Yamato province (Nara) circa 710AD.

The shape is seen as a bridge between the old double-edged Japanese Ken (originally by way of China) and the traditional Japanese tachi. This all formed the basis for the eventual Japanese katana.



*Kogarasu-maru*  
Imperial treasure  
Amakuni, circa 710AD

Swordsmith: *Suishinshi Masatsugu*

Sui

shin

shi

Masa

tsugu

(Kaou)



*Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu Kichijitsu*  
*(dated on a good day in February 1854)*



Ka

ei

7

nen

2

gatsu

Kichi

jitsu

特 保  
28201603

No 1005303



鑑定書

一 刀 銘  
水心子正次(花押)  
嘉永七年二月吉日

長二尺三寸七分弱

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

平成二十八年六月一日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京 教育委員会  
第 253066 号  
平成 2 年 4 月 12 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 28th year of Heisei (2016), June 1st

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Suishinshi Masatsugu (Kaou)*

*Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu kichijitsu*

(dated on a good day in February 1854)

*Nagasa* (length)


2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu (71.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

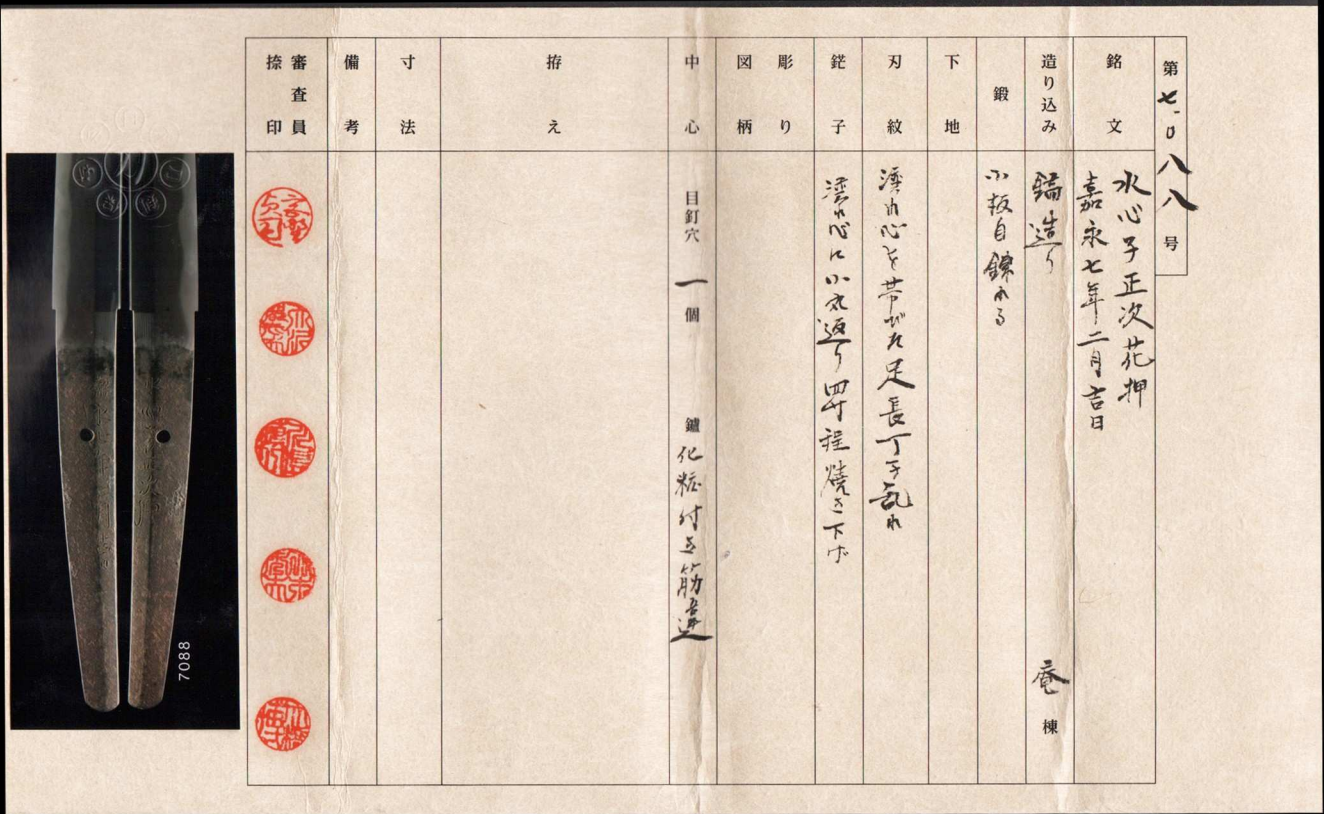
Born *Kawabe Hokushi*, Masatsugu was the son of the 2nd generation Masahide, becoming the 3rd generation Suishinshi.

Due to the early passing of his father he completed his studies with grandmaster swordsmith *Taikei Naotane*. He would eventually marry his daughter.

Masatsugu died on March 11, 1860.

A close-up, diagonal view of a dark, textured metal sword blade. A circular hole is visible in the center. The blade is inscribed with Japanese characters in a traditional style. The characters are arranged in a vertical line, with a larger character at the top and smaller characters below. The lighting highlights the texture and the depth of the inscriptions.

Masatsugu signed with the same *Suishinshi* name and official *kao* (seal) as his father.



捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	影 り	錠 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造り 込み	銘 文	第七 八 号
				目釘穴 一個				浮舟心も帯が丸足長丁手乱水 浮舟心は小文返り四行柱焼下下		小板自鍛水	鑄造り	水心子正次花押 嘉永七年二月吉日	
				鍍化板付と 竹肌返							巻棟		

## NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Designation

(a sword designated as *Highly Excellent* by the  
Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

Issued in the 27th year of Heisei (2015), December 13th

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Suishinshi Masatsugu (Kaou)*

*Kaei 7-nen 2-gatsu kichijitsu*

(dated on a good day in February 1854)

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu (71.8cm)

Nihon Token Hozon Kai  
(NTHK-NPO)

\*\*This certificate is the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO



**Suishinshi**

**Fujiwara**

**Masatsugu**

*5 Ji Mei Kaou Narabi ni Kaei 7 nen 2 gatsu Kichijitsu Shirushi Ari Kore Doukou wa Naotane Kado Naran Suishinshi Masahide no Youshi to Naruto Den no Hontou wa Kissaki Ryoba Tsukuru Tsumari Kogarasu Tsukuri no Fukko Cho no Sugata wo Teishi Nie Nioi Shinkou Naru Gunome Cho no Midare wo Yaki Ashi Hairi Sunagashi Kinsen wo Ashirai Dousei ni Tomite Deki Yoroshi*

Five character signature with kaou stamp, dated on a good day in February 1854. Masatsugu was a student of Naotane and offspring of Suishinshi Masahide. The tip is double-edged and represents a faithful reproduction of Kogarasu. Deep and thick nie and nioi, irregularly undulating temper line, ashi, sunagashi, kinsen, abundance of hataraki. A well made sword.

*Nagasa 2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu jaku arikore (71.8cm)*

*Jizai Hinototori Moushun (January in 2017)*

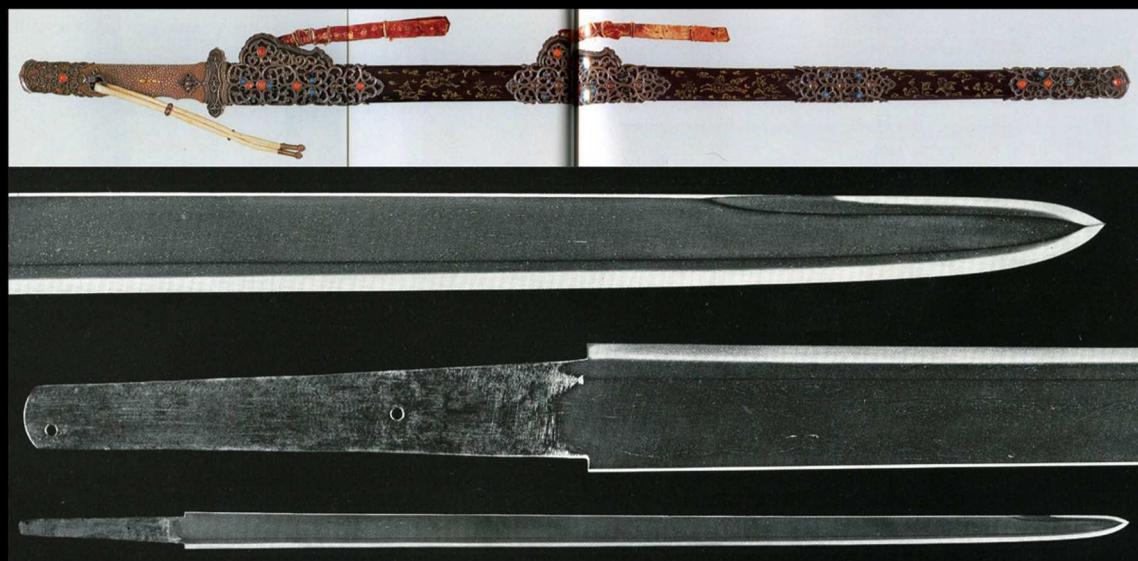
*Tanzan Hendoushiki (Kaou)*

signed by Tanobe sensei with seal




*Kissaki-moroha-zukuri*  
(double-edged near tip construction)

Length of the double cutting edge: 13cm

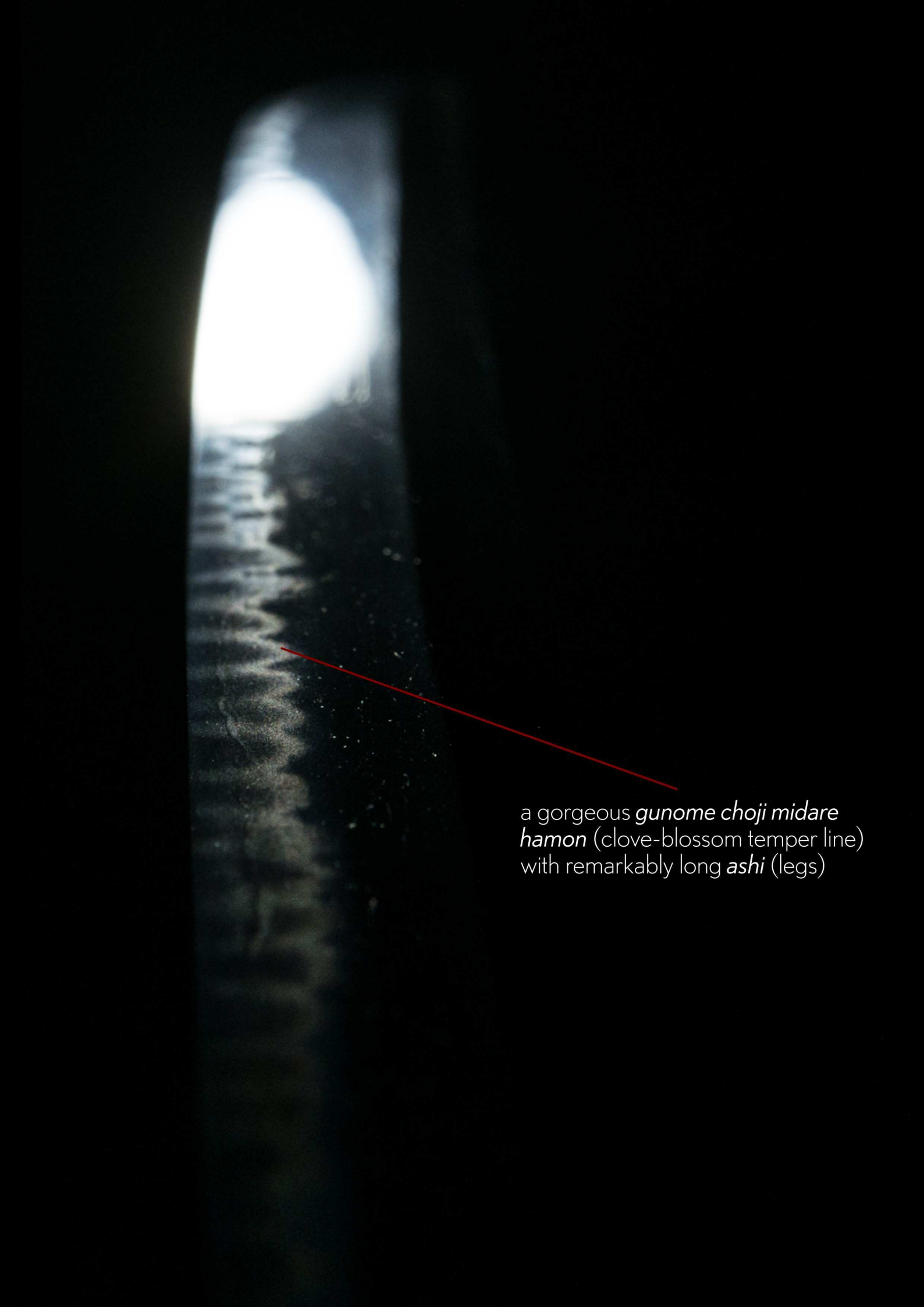


Emperor Shomu's collection (8th century)  
Chinese sword (Kara-tachi) with kissaki-moroha-zukuri

Special Exhibition "The Japanese Sword"  
by the Tokyo National Museum (1997)



vivid streaks of *kinsuji* (aka *kinsen*)  
golden (black) lines of nie crystals  
in the *hamon* (temper line).



a gorgeous *gunome choji midare hamon* (clove-blossom temper line)  
with remarkably long *ashi* (legs)

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (temper line) patterns. The blade is dark, and the hamon is highlighted by a bright light source, creating a glowing effect. The patterns are intricate and show signs of traditional Japanese swordsmithing.

Masatsugu is rated *Jo-saku* (a superior smith) by Fujishiro and was highly skilled in the Bizen and Soshu traditions.

A handful of swords by Masatsugu have attained prestigious NBTHK Juyo Token status. It is extremely challenging for a Shinshinto smith to reach this level thereby speaking volumes to his overall talent.

*kinsuji*

*ashi*  
(long legs extending to the cutting edge)

Masatsugu is grandson to master swordsmith *Suishinshi Masahide*.

Considered the father of the Shinshinto period, Masahide mourned the disappearance of the old traditional Koto methods and advocated for their restoration. This seed blossomed into the *fukkoto* movement.

The force of his claim was so influential that numerous sword smiths within the country came to study under him. There were at least 200 students during the lifetime of the school including his star student *Taikei Naotane* who became an adoptive father to Masatsugu.





*sunagashi* (streams of sand)

Hello, little crow.

