



ITEM# UJKA188

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A YAKUWA YASUTAKE KATANA SIGNED & DATED, SHOWA PERIOD (AUGUST 1979)

- Swordsmith:** *Musashi no Kuni Yakuwa YASUTAKE*
Location: Musashi province (Tokyo)
Length: 76.6cm
Curvature: 2.2cm
Jihada: *Tight itame-hada (wood grain pattern) with midare utsuri*
Hamon: *Gunome choji midare (wavy temper line with clove blossom pattern)*
Nakago: *Ubu (original length)*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2-4: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword, tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Edo-period Higo koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, all exportation paperwork from Japan

SOLD



To introduce *Yakuwa Yasutake* is to discuss the *Nihonto Tanren Kai* (NTK) – a non-profit organization that functioned from 1933 to 1945 on the grounds of *Yasukuni Shrine* (left) in Tokyo to produce quality swords for *high-ranking military officers*.

Over this period about 30 swordsmiths produced an impressive 8,000 blades. As Japan was in constant conflict with Asian countries, producing swords expressing a pure Japanese spirit was essential.

The NTK went to great lengths to produce Japanese swords in the traditional manner. They even constructed a *tatara* (smelter) to produce *tamahagane* for their own swords.

Yasutake was born in 1909 in Yamagata prefecture. He first joined the NTK as a handyman in 1935, and became an established Yasukuni smith in 1944.

Yasutake produced between 10 and 30 swords at Yasukuni. After the war, he resumed sword making again in 1954.

Yasutake has won several awards during his life. He is regarded as the finest swordsmith among other postwar Yasukuni smiths.



Yasutake was finally awarded with *mukanza* (without judgement), the highest degree of crafting honors in 1981. In 1983 he was a leading member of a team that produced a sword for dedication at the Yasukuni Shrine marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of the NTK.

Yasutake died a year later in 1984.

This long and elegant katana is surely one of his finest works having been completed in the summer of 1979 - at the end of a most prolific career. It is crafted in the Bizen tradition, with a stunning *gunome choji midare* (clove blossoms) and with clear *midare utsuri* (shadow hamon).

The sword is well-polished and in exquisite condition.

A handsome Edo-period *Higo koshirae* accompanies the piece with a *Jingo school tsuba* and *fuchikashira* that celebrates the power of mother nature in a prolific thunderstorm.

Four certificates of authenticity accompany this highly collectible katana, recently attaining **NBTHK Hozon** - a sword designated as worthy of preservation by the Japanese sword museum in Tokyo.

Saki-kasane: 5.4mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 7.3mm

Omosa: 890g

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

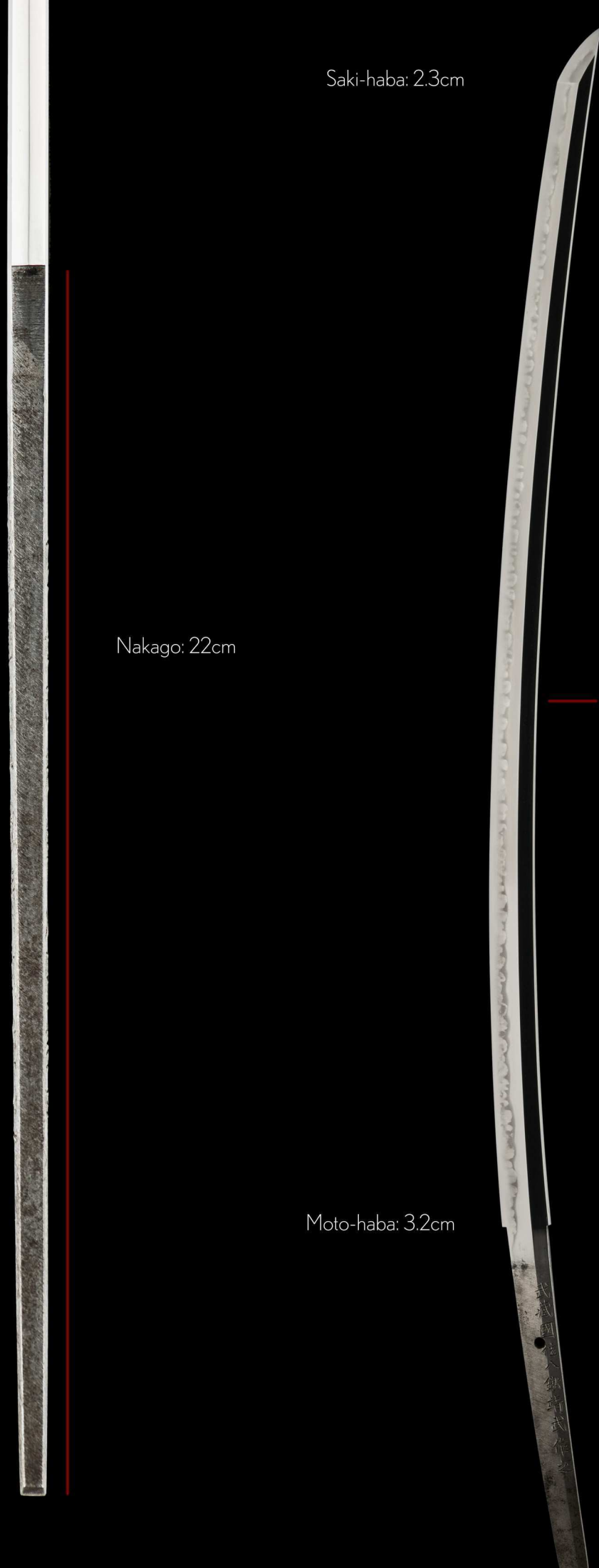
Nakago: 22cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 76.6cm

Sori: 2.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





略
永
平
八
月
吉
日

Dated:

A good day in August 1979
(during the year of the sheep)

Sho

wa

Tsuchinoto

hitsuji

Toshi

8

gatsu

Kichi

jitsu

昭

和

乙

未

年

八

月

吉

日



Location: *Musashi no Kuni (Tokyo)*

Swordsmith: *Yakuwa Yasutake*

武藏國往八
鋤靖武作之

Mu

sashi

(no) kuni

ju

Ya

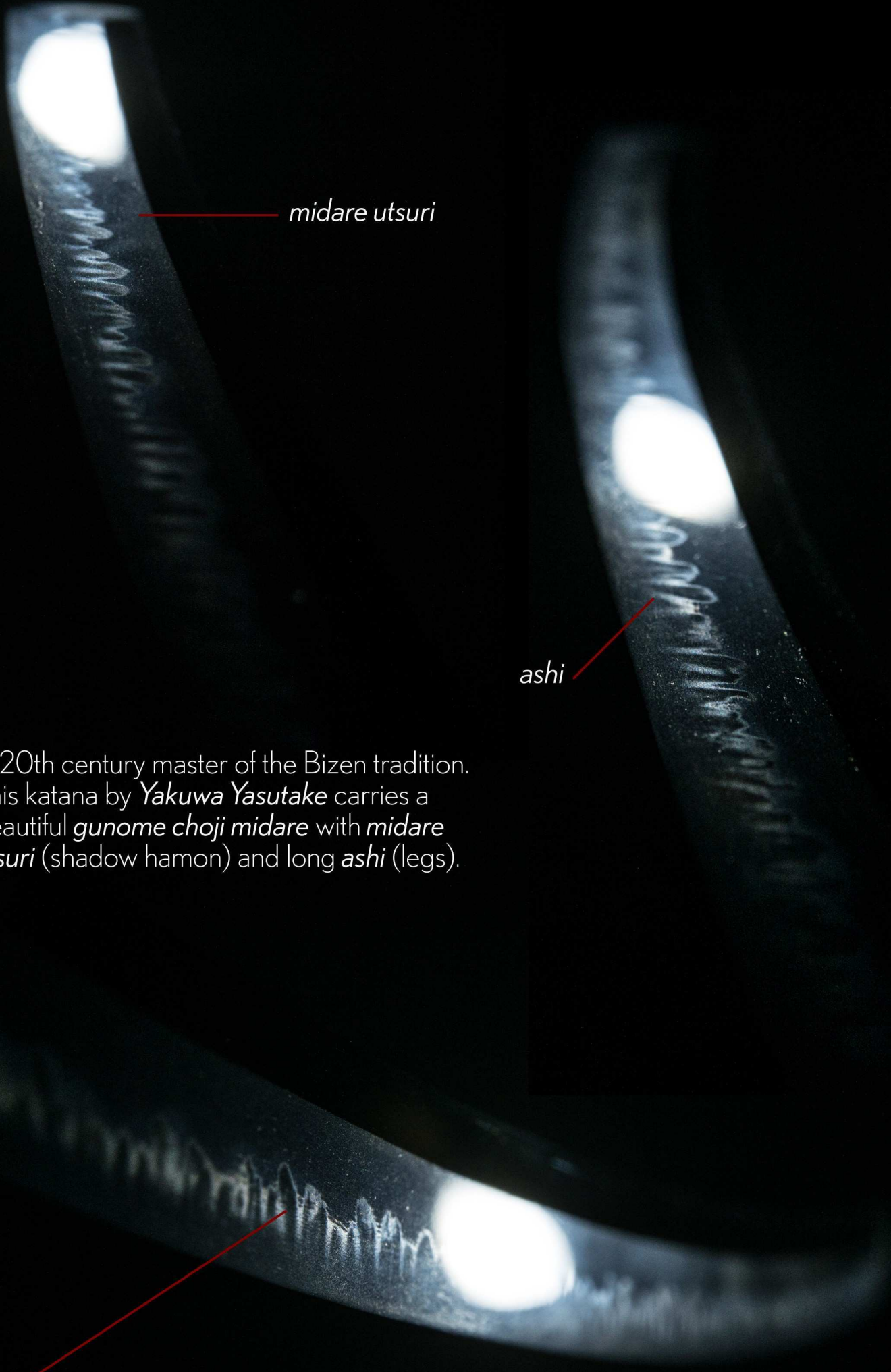
kuwa

Yasu

take

saku

kore



midare utsuri

ashi

A 20th century master of the Bizen tradition. This katana by *Yakuwa Yasutake* carries a beautiful *gunome choji midare* with *midare utsuri* (shadow hamon) and long *ashi* (legs).

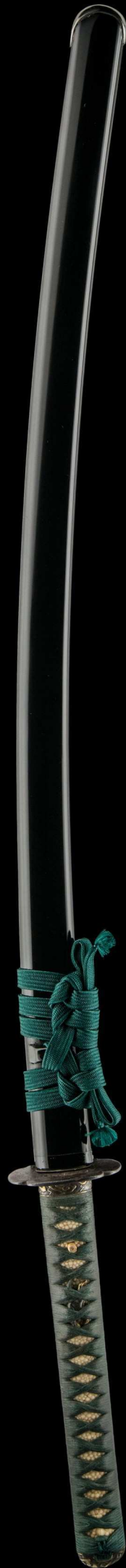
gunome choji midare (a temper line of wild clove blossoms)



Shirasaya



Niju Yokoyasuri-habaki
(silver)





Tsuba

A splendid Higo province Jingo School polished iron tsuba with gold and silver inlay depicting bolts of lightning amid a thunderstorm.

It was crafted during the late Edo period, mid-1800s.

Feel the power of nature.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification



Tsuru (crane) is a mystical creature believed to live a thousand years. The crane thus represents good fortune and longevity. It is celebrated as the “bird of happiness”.

