



ITEM# UJKA239

A SAKON KOREKAZU KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD, KANBUN ERA (1661~1673)

- Swordsmith:** *Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu (Shodai, first generation)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 71.5cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 1.5cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
- Jihada:** *Itame and masame hada (wavy and straight grain) with chikei and utsuri*
- Hamon:** *Choji-midare, with plentiful sunagashi and kinsen*
- 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 #2-4:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku & Kanteisho** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent and a tsuba & koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Authenticity:** **Sayagaki by Tanobe sensei**
- Fujishiro:** **Jo-saku** (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
- Cutting ability:** **Ryo-Wazamono** (maker of good sharp swords)
- Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

SOLD

Musashi Daijo Korekazu was one of the finest swordsmiths and leading figures of the shinto period. He moved from Omi province to Edo (Tokyo) to establish the *Edo Ishido school* in the early 1600s and trained many excellent swordsmiths as faithful stewards of the Bizen tradition. The finest work of which is reminiscent of *Ichimonji school* blades from the Kamakura period.

This powerful *Jo-sun* (2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu) katana is emblematic of the work of Korekazu. A *choji midare hamon* lights up the steel with generous amounts of *sunagashi*, *kinsen*, *tobiyaki* and *utsuri*. The *koshirae* features a lovely arrangement of *kiku* (chrysanthemum) design-inspired fittings. NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon, NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and *sayagaki* authenticity by Tanobe sensei.

Saki-kasane: 5.1mm [^]

Saki-haba: 2.0cm

Nagasa: 71.5cm

Moto-kasane: 7.1mm

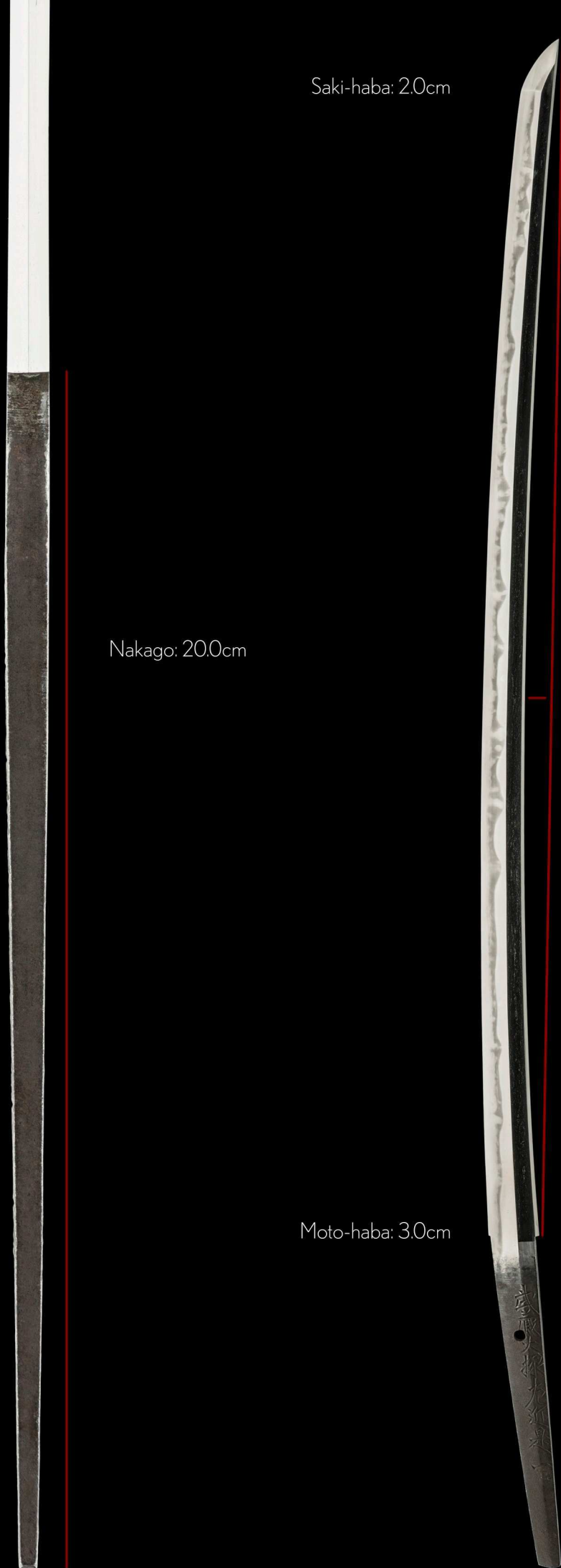
Nakago: 20.0cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Omosa: 725g

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







Title: *Musashi Daijo*

Civilian name: [*Kawakami*] *Sakon*

Swordsmith: *Korekazu*

Mu

sashi

Dai

jo

Sa

kon

Kore

kazu

特保
12200003

No. 145546



鑑定書

一刃 銘 武蔵大掾左近是

長二尺三寸五分半

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

平成十二年五月十一日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



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

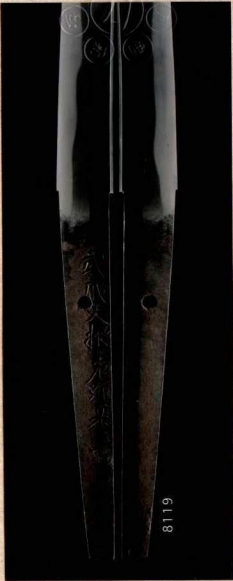





Issued in the 12th year of Heisei (2000), May 11th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu han (71.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

捺 査 査 印 員	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	形 り	銚 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 号
	慶 安 頃     			目釘穴 一個 鎌 次 の 竹 助 造 り			直 心 丸 水 に 鑄 り 造 り 子 丸 水 に 焼 き 下 丸 返 り			小板 自	鑄 造 り 庵 棟	武 蔵 大 掾 左 近 是 一	八 〇 一 九

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 28th year of Heisei (2016), December 18th

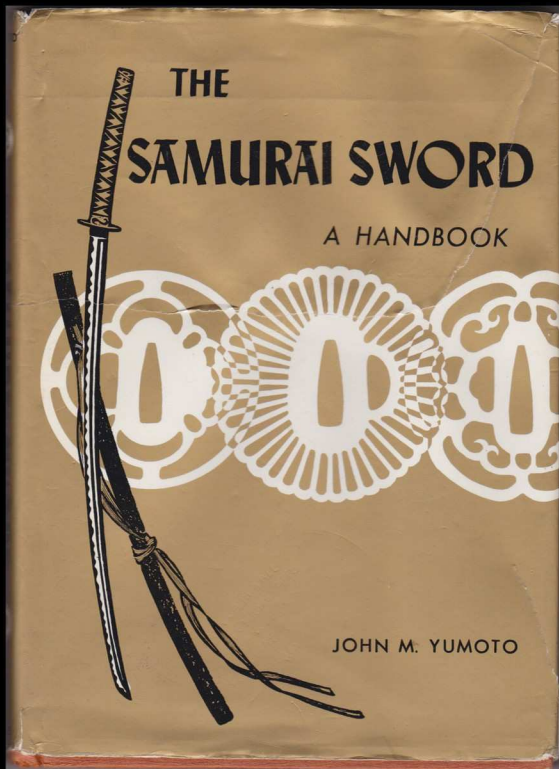
One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Musashi Daijo Sakon Korekazu

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (71.5cm)

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

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



The Samurai Sword is an indispensable book for the fortunate owner of one and an invaluable source book for all interested in this superb craft, the secrets of which have been jealously guarded for centuries.



THE AUTHOR, John M. Yumoto, is perhaps the foremost authority on the samurai sword outside of Japan. A native of California, he began his study of Japanese sword-craft during his early childhood in Japan. While in Japan he studied under a number of masters from different schools and learned the art of sword polishing and of identification and evaluation. He has held membership in a number of sword clubs and at present is an active member of the Japan Society for the Preservation of the Samurai Sword and the Northern California Sword Club. He has also been requested to serve as advisor to the Japanese Sword Society of the United States, presently being organized.

placing "gingerbread" on their products, and one can find on the swords of this period extravagant engravings of flowers, shrubbery, and dragons, instead of the simple Sanskrit characters or grooves of older swords. Even in the tempered lines of the swords there may be found intricate and picturesque representations of maple leaves, cherry blossoms, chrysanthemums, and Mount Fuji. More than half of the samurai swords in existence today were made during the New Sword period.

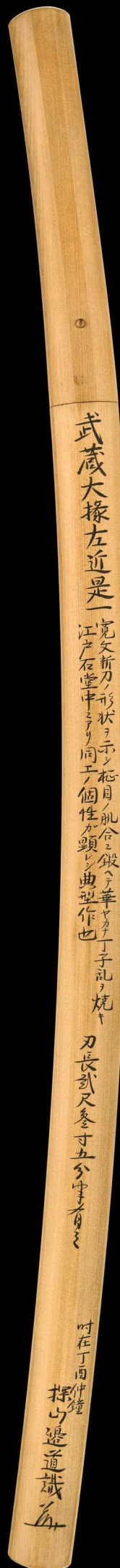
The following list shows some of the leading smiths of the early (Azuchi-Momoyama) part of this period. Titles or surnames are enclosed in parentheses:

Yamashiro Province	(Umetada) Myôju, (Shinano no Kami) Kunihiro, Kuniyasu, (Deba Daijô) Kunimichi, (Echigo no Kami) Kunitomo, (Ôsumi no Jô) Masahiro, (Iga no Kami) Kanamichi, (Tamba no Kami) Yoshimichi, (Etchû no Kami) Masatoshi, (Izumi no Kami) Kunisada, (Kôchi no Kami) Kunisuke
Settsu Province	(Izumi no Kami) Kunisada, (Kôchi no Kami) Kunisuke, (Soboro) Sukehiro, (Tamba no Kami) Yoshimichi, (Omi no Kami) Tadatsuna, (Mutsu no Kami) Kanemori
Mino Province	(Sagami no Kami) Masatsune, (Mino no Kami) Masatsune, (Hôki no Kami) Nobutaka, (Hidachi no Kami) Ujifusa
Musashi Province	Hankei, Yasutsugu, (<u>Musashi Daijô</u>) <u>Korekazu</u>
Ômi Province	Ippô
Iwashiro Province	Nagakuni, (Mutsu Daijô) Nagamichi
Rikuzen Province	(Yamashiro Daijô) Kunikane, (Yamato Daijô) Yasusada

John Yumoto's 1958 classic "*The Samurai Sword*" is one of the first books published in English on the subject of nihonto.

Above is a grouping of influential swordsmiths from the early Edo period.

Note that *Musashi Daijô Korekazu* was one of just three smiths from Musashi province (modern-day Tokyo) that he singled out.



Musashi

Daijo

Sakon

Korekazu

Kanbun Shinto no Keijyo wo Shimeshi Masame no Hadaai ni Kitaete Hanayaka na Choji Midare wo Yaki Edo Ishido Chu ni Ari Doukou no Kosei ga Arawashi Tenkei Saku Nari

Kanbun era's shinto period shape with straight grain pattern (*masame-hada*) and gorgeous clove-shaped temper line (*choji-midare hamon*). Blade displays Edo Ishido school's characteristics and represents Korekazu's typical work.

Nagasa 2 shaku 3 sun 5 bu han ari kore (71.5cm)

Jizai Hinototori Chushou (February 2017)

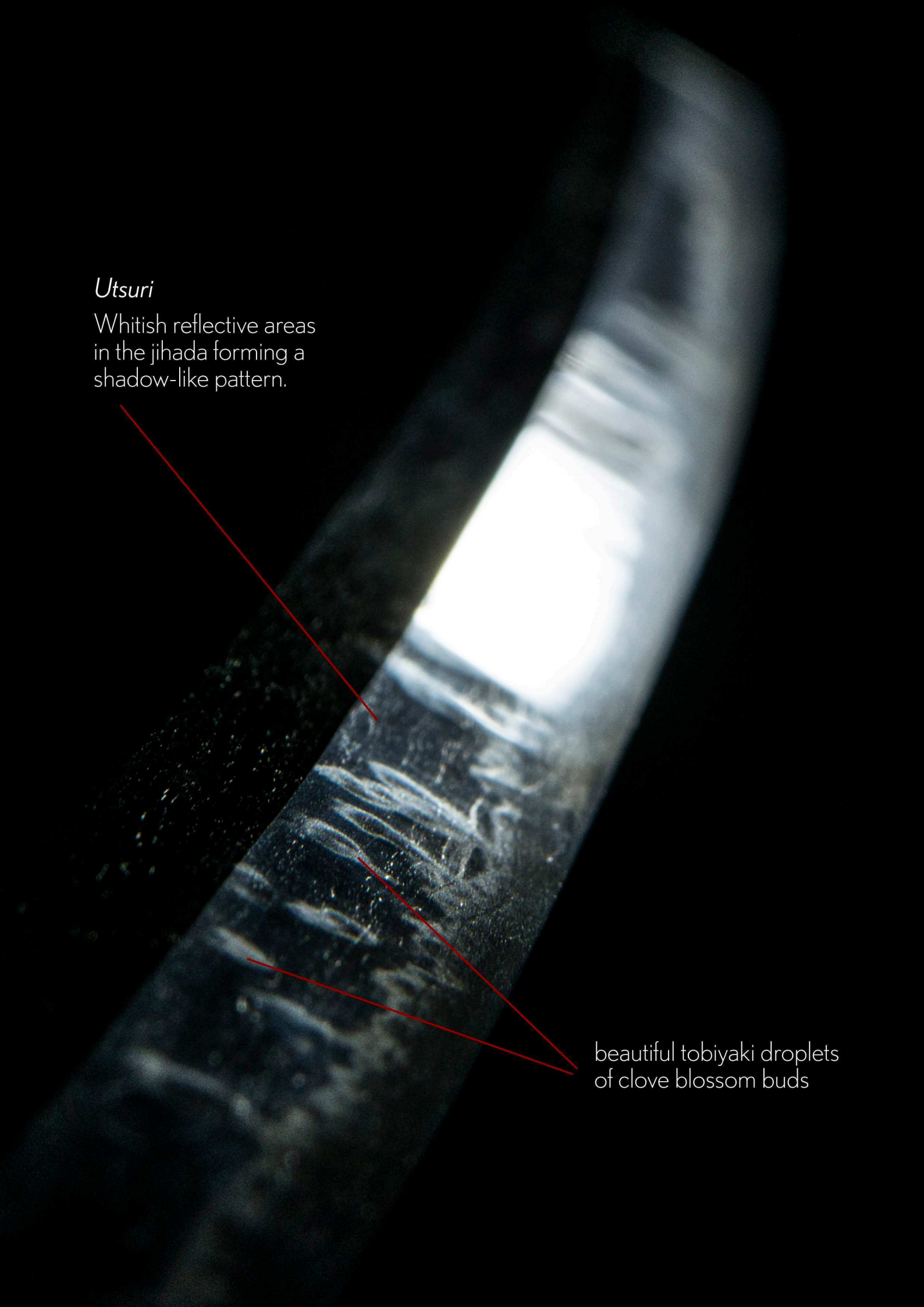
Tanzan Hendoushiki (Kaou)


signed by Tanobe sensei with seal

Utsuri

Whitish reflective areas
in the jihada forming a
shadow-like pattern.

beautiful tobiyaki droplets
of clove blossom buds




A close-up, vertical view of a sword blade. The blade is dark and shows a complex pattern of light and dark lines, characteristic of a choji midare hamon. The pattern consists of irregular, overlapping bands that resemble the shape of clove blossoms. The blade is set against a black background, and a bright light source from the top creates a strong highlight along the upper edge and the spine of the blade.

a gorgeous *choji midare hamon*
(clove-blossom temper line) with
high yaki that extends to the
shinogi (ridge line)

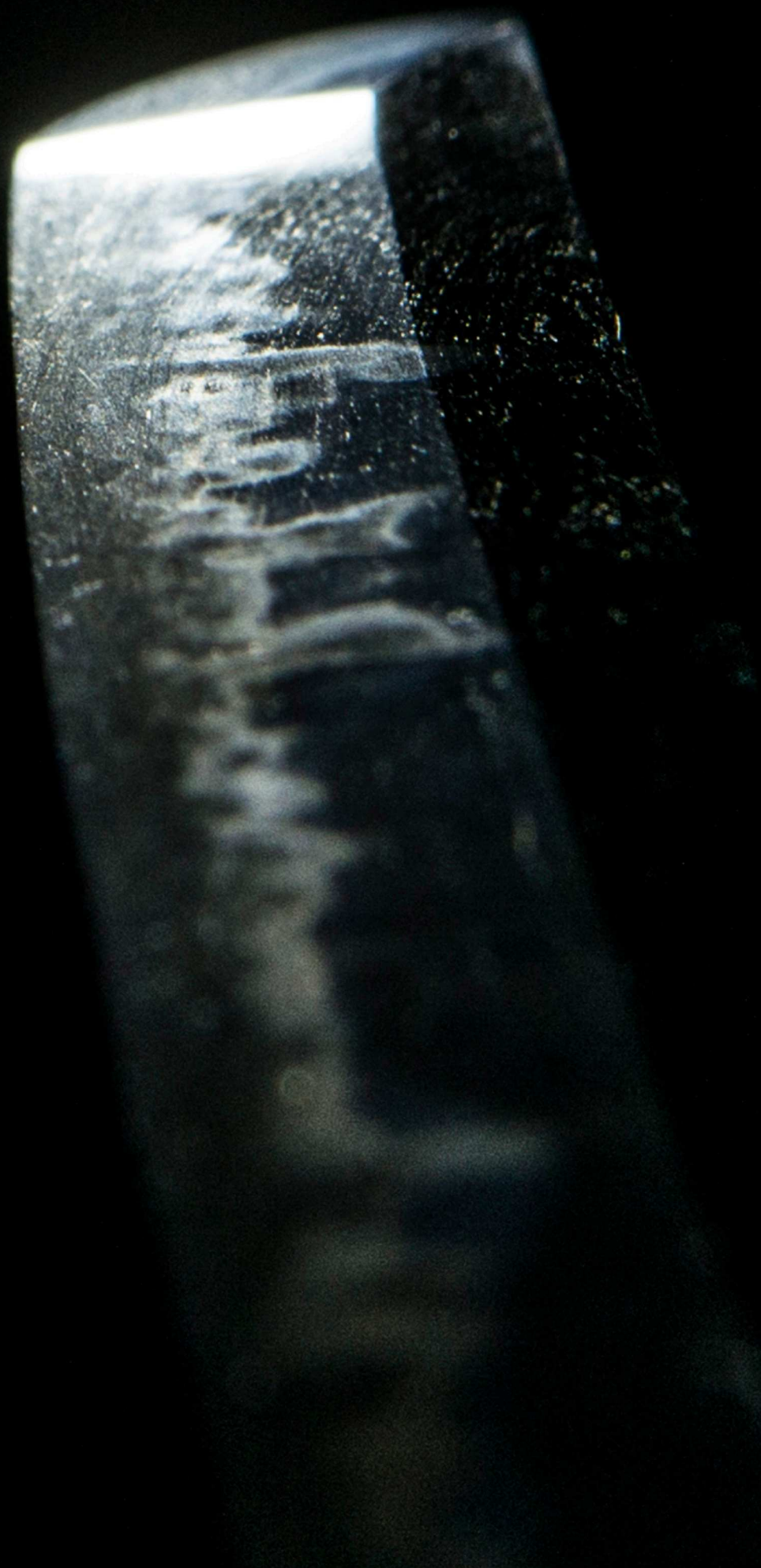
kinsuji / kinsen



A close-up, diagonal view of a sword's hamon (temper line). The image shows intricate patterns of light and dark metal, with fine, dark lines (kinsen) and lighter, wavy areas (sunagashi) visible against a dark background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and detail of the metal.

vigorous activity in the *hamon* sees
kinsen (black lines) carving through
sunagashi (streams of sand)

a paint brush of *sunagashi* flows into the *shinogi-ji*.





A subtle and stylish transition of the lacquer finish from *ishime* (stone) to smooth.



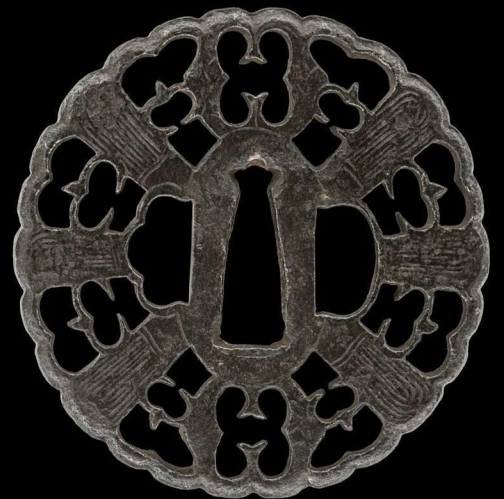
Tsuba

This is a *Kyo-sukashi* - a term to describe tsuba from Kyoto. It has been dated to the early Edo period (1600s), at the same time this Sakon Korekazu katana was crafted.

The unique design is of a *tea whisk* and *ginger*. The tsuba's shape is that of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum).

The Japanese word for ginger is *myoga* (茗荷), which has the same pronunciation as *myoga* (冥加), meaning "good luck". The Japanese love word play.

This tsuba is a lucky charm fit for nobility.

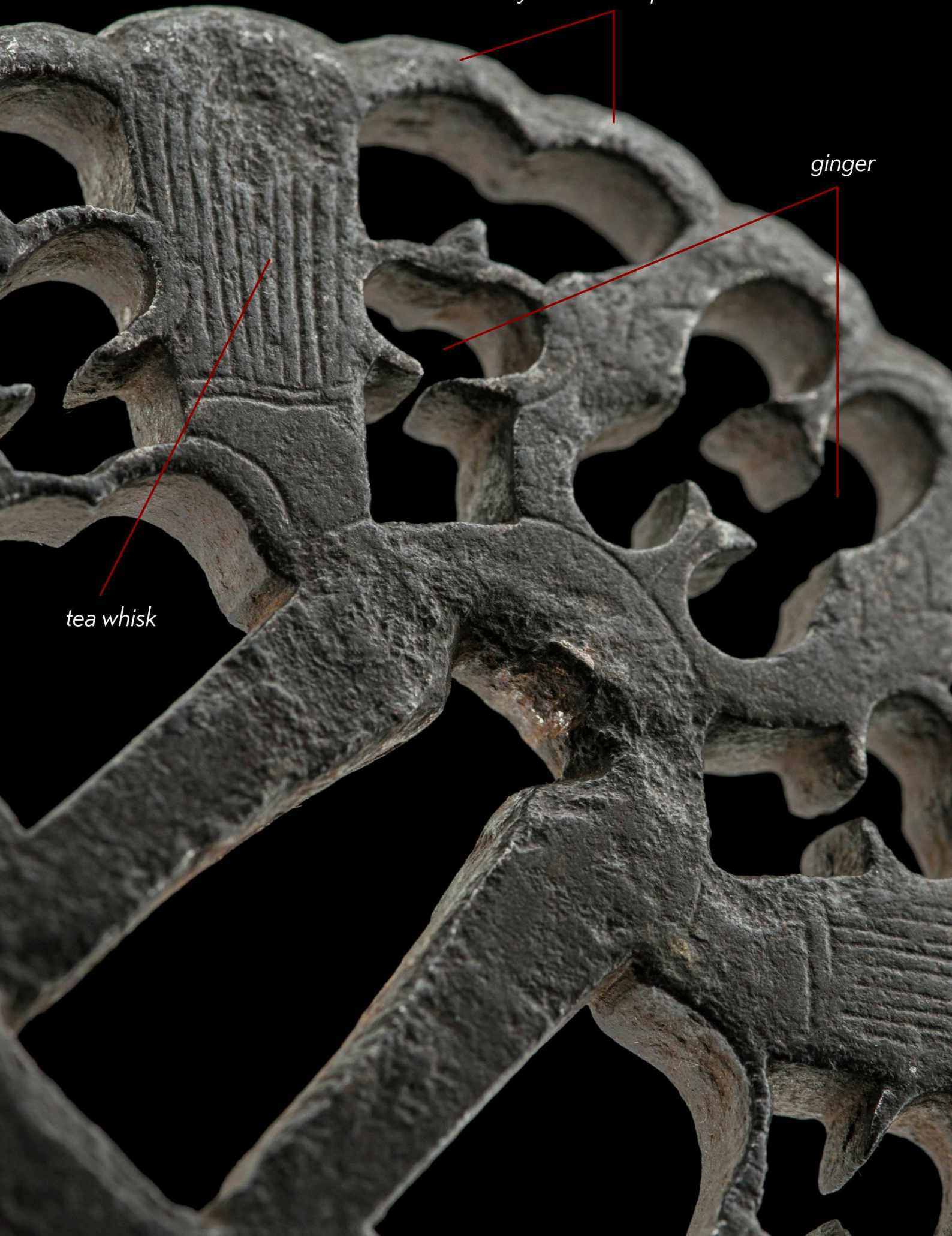


This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification

chrysanthemum petals

ginger

tea whisk





Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) display horse riding equipment.

Riding in a saddle was reserved for the samurai class until the end of the samurai era in 1868.



A uniquely designed *kiku* (chrysanthemum) silver *habaki* hugs the sword so it fits securely into the *saya* (scabbard).

The fan of petals are reminiscent of Japan's much celebrated rising sun.



black lacquered *samekawa*
(skin of a ray fish)

A complimentary sword maintenance kit with *mekugi-nuki* and a bottle of *Fujishiro* sword oil (trusted by the Japanese sword museum) is included with all sword purchases.



safe, extra large cloth for adding oil to the blade

Care and Protection

The maintenance kit also includes a large cloth to comfortably and safely rest the sword when viewing (for hours on end!).

And when the sword is not in hand, watch the **Art of the Japanese Sword DVD** or read the insightful sword picture book from the **All Japan Swordsmith Association** (also included free for clients).



40cm x 40cm cloth
(in blue and white)