



ITEM# UJKA245

## A YASUTSUNA KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

- Swordsmith:** *Awa no Kami Yasutsuna / crafted near a castle in Osaka*  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 70.3cm    **Curvature:** 1.5cm    **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame with masame, tobiyaki and light utsuri*  
**Hamon:** *Bright choji midare and koshibiraki with sunagashi, plentiful nie*  
**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 #2-3:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae and tsuba designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Authenticity** **Sayagaki by Dr. Sato Kanzan** (former director of the NBTHK)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

## SOLD

Accomplished swordsmith *Yasutsuna* worked in the *Yasuhiro* branch of the *Kii Ishido School* that draws their inspiration from swords of the Koto period *Bizen Ichimonji School*. He was a traveller, dividing his time in *Kii province* (Wakayama) and in the flourishing city of Osaka. In fact, *Yasutsuna* engraved on the nakago that he crafted this particular katana near a castle in Osaka.

There is a feeling of great creative pride within this sword. The *hamon* is a vibrant *choji-midare* with hints of *koshibiraki* and *utsuri* in the *hada*. Lovely flowing *masame-hada* in the *shinogi-ji*. The *koshirae* features *kikyo* (bellflower) and an early Edo period *Heianjo-zogan tsuba*. Certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon with *sayagaki* authentication by Dr. Kanzan Sato from February 1973, this elegant katana has been cherished for centuries and deserves a thoughtful caretaker.

Saki-kasane: 5.0mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Omosa: 680g

Saki-haba: 1.9cm

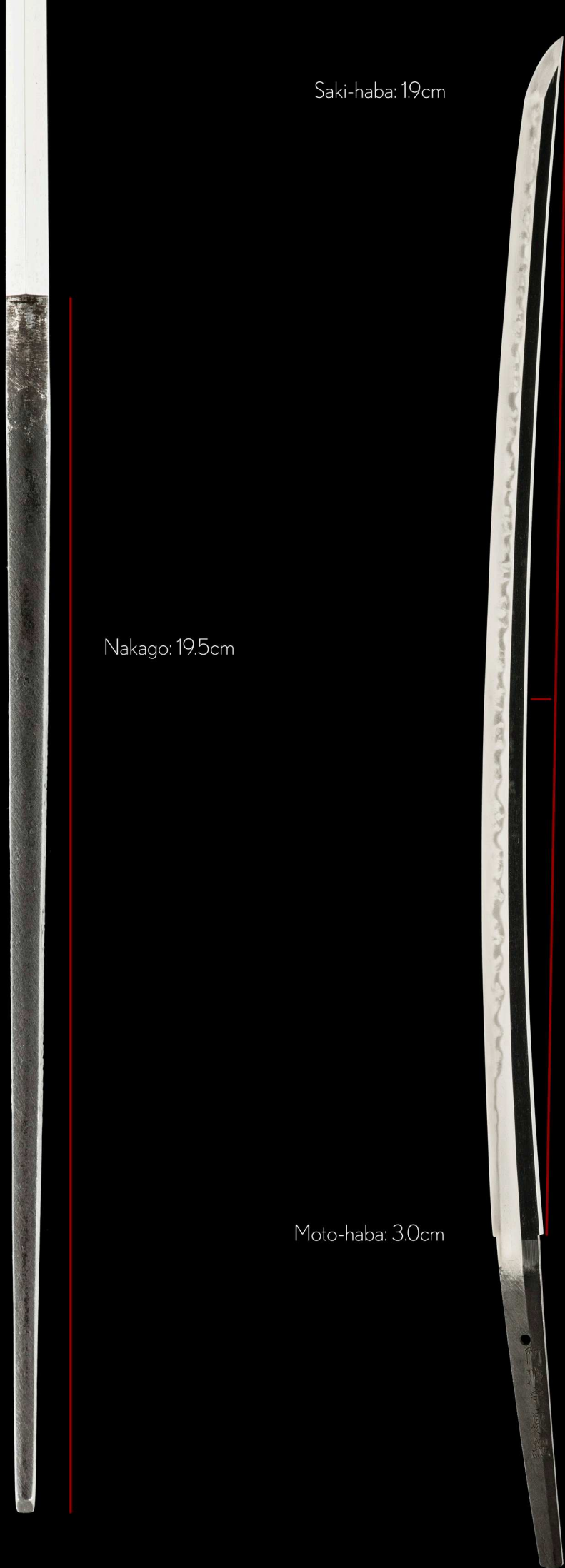
Nakago: 19.5cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 70.3cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: *Awa no Kami* (Tokushima Prefecture)

Swordsmith: *Yasutsuna*



A

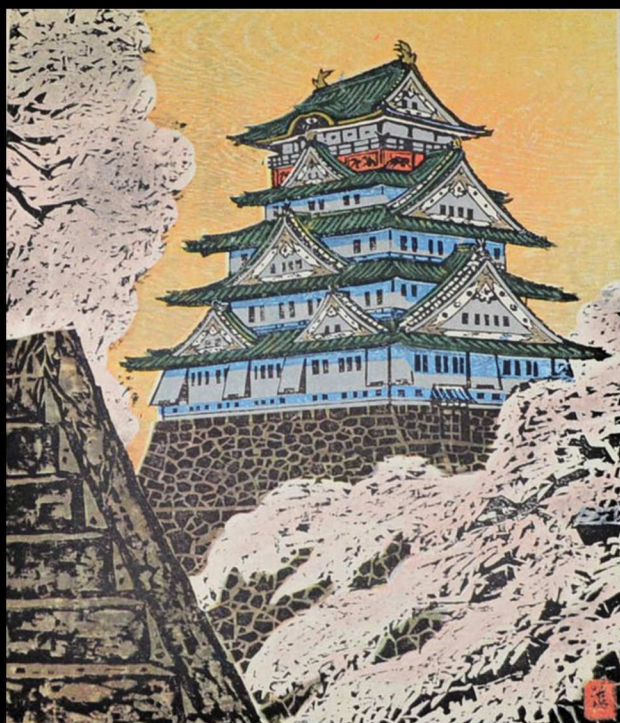
wa

(no) kami

Yasu

tsuna

*Oite Sesshu Joka Tsukuru Kore*  
(crafted near a castle in Osaka)



Swordsmith *Awa no Kami Yasutsuna* worked in both *Kii province* (Wakayama) and in *Sesshu* (Osaka).

When signing the nakago of this katana Yasutsuna remarked that this sword was crafted near a castle in Osaka.

One can comfortably assume he referring to the great Osaka castle that was originally built in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

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sshu  
Jo  
ka

Tsukuru  
Kore

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木  
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之



特保  
11199911



鑑定書  
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於攝易城下造之  
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鑑定しこれを証する  
平成十一年十二月十六日  
財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

No 144925

## 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 11th year of Heisei (1999), December 16th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)  
Awa no Kami Yasutsuna  
Oite Sesshu Joka Tsukuru Kore


Nagasa (length)  
2-shaku 3-sun 2-bu (70.3cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

A close-up photograph of a sword's hamon (temper line) showing a koshibiraki pattern. The line is dark and wavy, with distinct peaks and valleys. Two red lines point from the text below to a specific peak in the pattern.

### *Koshibiraki hamon*

*Koshi* means 'waist'. Some areas of the hamon carry this type of temper line that is synonymous with the Bizen tradition. The *koshi* areas of the hamon widen before and after a peak.

A close-up photograph of a sword's hamon showing an Osaka-yakidashi pattern. The line is dark and wavy, starting from a straight base and widening as it moves towards the tip. A red line points from the text below to the beginning of the hamon.

### *Osaka-yakidashi*

The beginning of the hamon is called the *yakidashi*. When the yakidashi is straight and widens upward from the base, it is said to have *Osaka yakidashi* - a key feature of swords from the area.

Beautifully forged *masame-hada*  
(straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*

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*Utsuri*

Whitish reflective areas in the jihada near the *shinogi*.

Bold and bright.





*tobiyaki*  
(temper spots in the ji)

In true *Kii Ishido school* form, the billowing *choji-midare* (clove blossoms) extends the width of the blade, known as "*high yaki*".





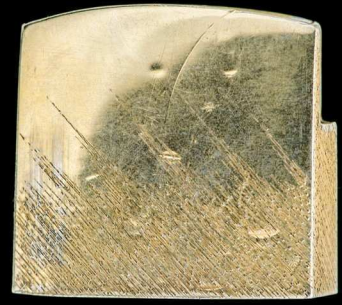
A  
wa  
(no) kami  
Yasu  
tsuna

*Nagasa 2 shaku 3 sun 2 bu arikore (70.3cm)*

*Showa Mizunoto Kisaragi (February 1973)*

*Kanzan (Kaou)*

signed by Kanzan sensei with seal



*Koshi Yujo Yasuri habaki*





## Tsuba

This tsuba was crafted by the *Heianjo-Zogan school* during the 1600s.

The brass-inlay sukashi design is that of *Tomoe* - believed to depict the threefold division of *Man, Earth, and Sky* at the heart of the Shinto belief system of universal life balance.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.



reverse



## Ikebana

The *menuki* (decorative grips) portray an Ikebana arrangement.

Ikebana is a form of floral artistry, aesthetically pleasing yet so much more than just a flower arrangement.

Central to the idea of Ikebana is unity-in-diversity. Living materials, free to grow and change, form unique interdependent structures that emulate the way nature works.

Minimal materials, in every stage of life, reveal core diversity, asking us to look closer, to notice and appreciate.

No two flowers, leaves or branches are the same. Nature doesn't fit into set categories.

As part of nature, neither do we.

Each Ikebana creation conveys this principle by finding its own delicate balance within the symbiotic thread of life.

## Bellflower

Commonly known as 'balloon flower' due to its balloon-shaped flower buds, the bellflower (*kikyo*) has been a popular flower among samurai families for centuries.

It is said to symbolize unchanging love, honesty, and obedience.



*kashira* (pommel)



When we acquire swords, there are subtle clues that speak to the attention that the sword may have enjoyed over its lifetime.

The elegant handmade sword bag that protects the koshirae has a tasteful design pattern that emanates a feeling that this katana was greatly loved by its previous caretaker.

Sky's the limit.



## Thinking about how to best display?

Clients can select from one of three types of complimentary sword stands to proudly showcase their work of art.



traditional double-hook black wood sword stand



acrylic 'floating' type



small stand for tanto