



ITEM# UJKA246

A YOSHIHARA KUNIIE TACHI

SIGNED & DATED, 9TH YEAR OF HEISEI PERIOD (1997)

DISPLAYED AS MUKANSA-LEVEL PIECE IN A MODERN SWORD EXHIBITION

Swordsmith:	<i>Musashi Ju Kuniie (third generation, Yoshihara Shoji)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 77.6cm Curvature: 2.6cm Moto-haba: 3.5cm
Jihada:	<i>Itame hada, tobiyaki and shirake utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gorgeous gunome choji midare with yo, crafted in the Bizen tradition</i>
Engraving:	Full length <i>bo-hi</i> (groove)
Awards:	<i>Mukansa-level swordsmith (top rank, without judgement)</i>
Included:	Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

Modern-day master swordsmith *Yoshihara Shoji* is the grandson of *Kuniie*, son of *Masahiro*, and the younger brother of *Yoshindo Yoshihara*. He is the *third-generation Kuniie* swordsmith.

This glorious *tachi*, crafted in the Bizen tradition, possesses majestic curvature and shape that is reminiscent of the great works of the Kamakura period. The sword was displayed in a 1997 exhibition of modern swords as a *mukansa-level* art piece. *Kuniie sensei* is a *City of Tokyo Intangible Cultural Asset* and has earned countless awards and accolades. This awe-inspiring sword carries a spectacular *gunome choji midare hamon* that renders one justifiably speechless.

Saki-kasane: 6.0mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 8.8mm

Omosa: 1,006g

Saki-haba: 2.5cm

Nakago: 23.2cm

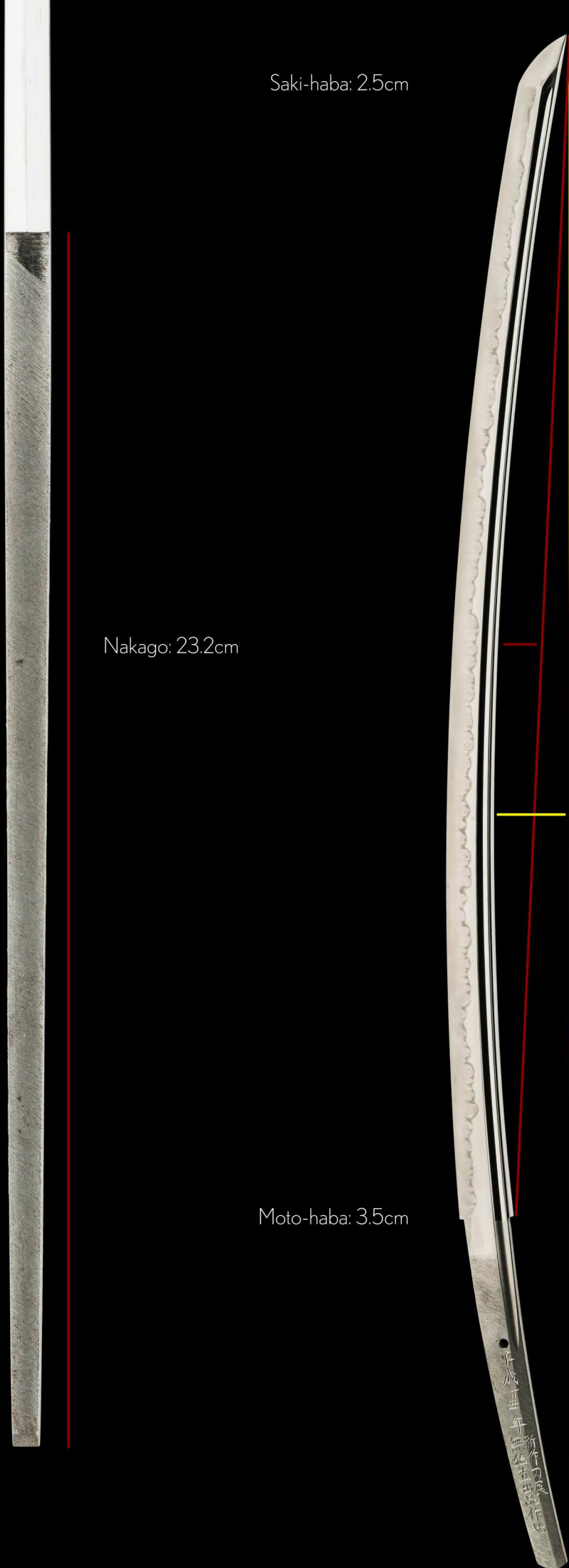
Moto-haba: 3.5cm

Nagasa: 77.6cm

Sori: 2.6cm

Sori: 4.5cm
(to nakago)

Mekugi-ana: 1





武蔵住家作

Location: *Musashi* (Tokyo)

Swordsmith: *Kuniie*

Mu
sashi
Ju
Kuni
ie
Saku

武蔵住
●
國
家作



Heisei Teichu Nen (1997)
Shinsaku-to Ten Mukansa Shuppin Saku Nari

This sword was displayed at a modern sword exhibition as a Mukansa-level entry.

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Saku
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Yoshihara Kuniie has been designated
City of Tokyo Intangible Cultural Asset
and serves as the executive director of the
All Japan Swordsmith Association.

Kuniie was awarded the the highest rank
of *mukansa* (without judgment) in 1982.

His accolades are numerous:

- * Bunkacho Director's Award three times
- * NBHTK Hon. Chairman Award three times
- * The Kunzan Award
- * The Kanzan Award
- * The Award for Excellence twice



特別保存刀劍鑑定書

As Yoshihara Kuniie is still alive and working, sword preservation societies such as the NBTHK and NTHK-NPO, by policy, do not award certificates of authenticity/designation.

We, of course, guarantee the authenticity of the tachi. Once Kuniie sensei is no longer with us, sending the sword back to Japan for a preservation certificate is a process that we can assist with for the new owner.



Born in 1894, first generation Yoshihara Kuniie's given name is *Yoshihara Katsukichi*.

He trained both his grandsons *Yoshindo* and *Shoji*.

During WW II, he assumed the role of training the *Jumei-Tosho* (Imperial Army Swordsmiths) at the first arsenal of the Army in Tokyo.

In 1941, he won the "Special Honor Seat" in the cutting test category.





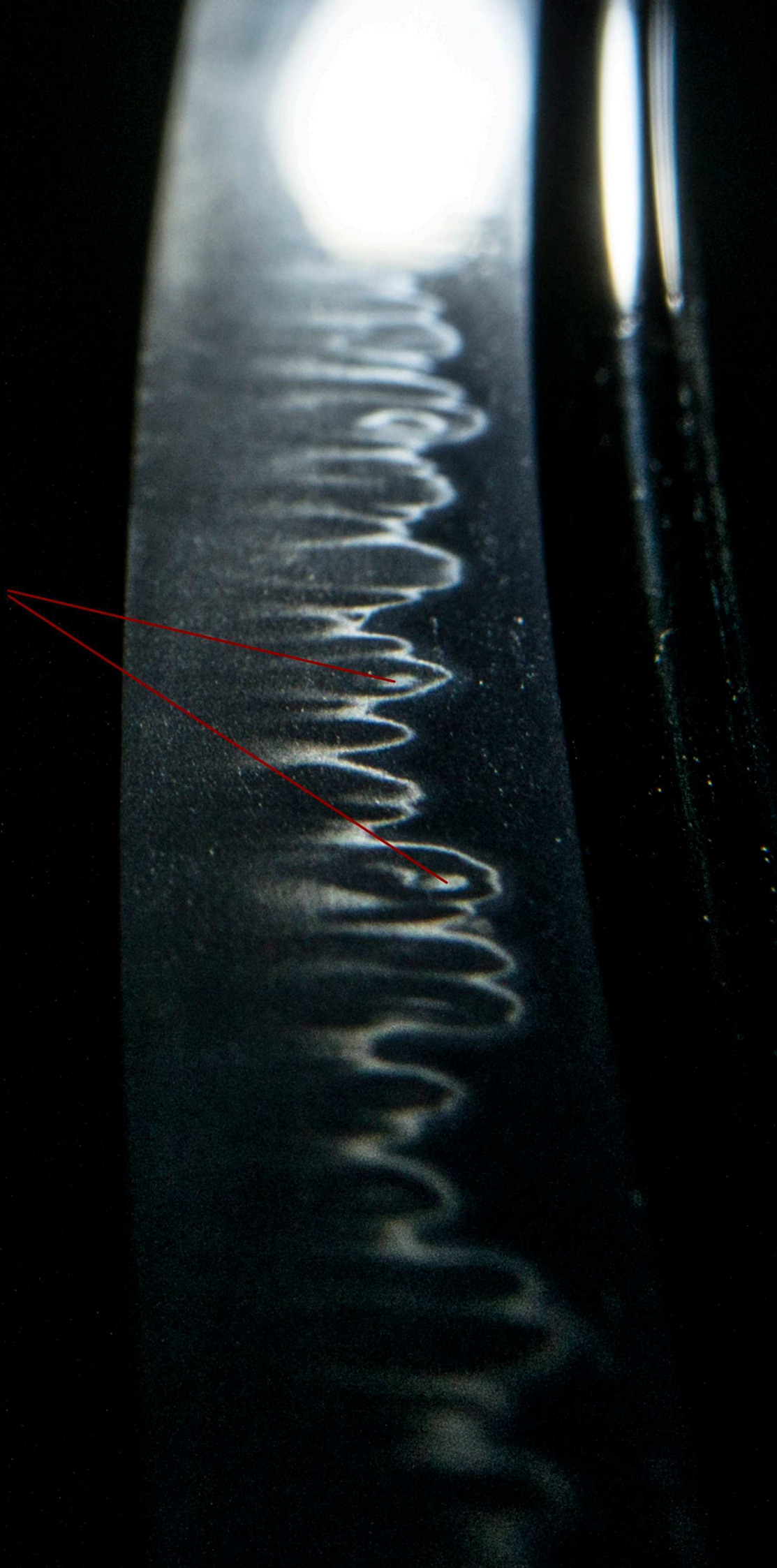
Shirake utsuri

Thin whitish cloud in the jihada near the *shinogi*.

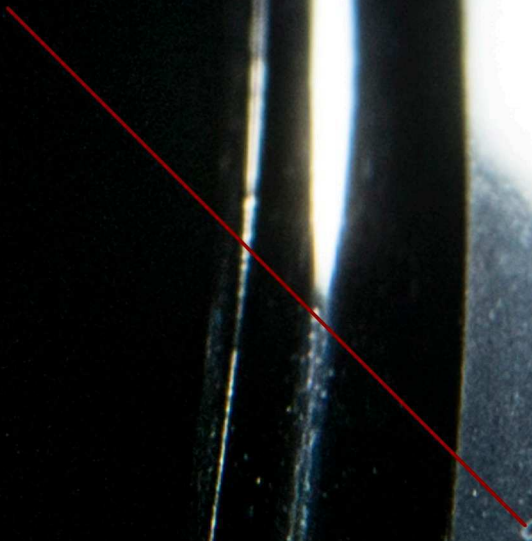
A vibrant *gunome choji midare hamon*, a temper line resembling clove blossom buds cascades along the steel.



Yo (leaves) are beautiful clusters of nie crystals inside the hamon.



Tiny droplet
of *tobiyaki*

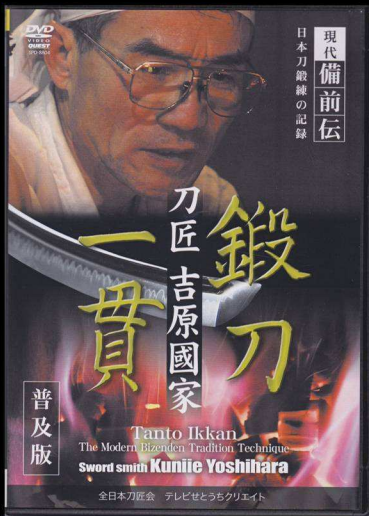


Tanto Ikkan

The Modern Bizenden Tradition Technique

- Swordsmith Kuniie Yoshihara

In 2014, QUEST Co., Ltd produced a 31-minute DVD following *Yoshihara Kuniie (Shoji)* through every major step in the creation of a Japanese tachi. *The completed tachi is remarkably similar to the one available in our catalogue.* It is a fascinating and informative documentary to see how such a sword is made from start to finish. I also enjoyed taking a peek into the jovial and rather humble personality of this modern-day master swordsmith. Below are some screenshots from the film. This DVD (which has English subtitles) will be included with the sword for the new caretaker to enjoy and further appreciate the craftsmanship that went into its creation. - PVK



(front cover)



(back cover)



Bizen brilliance.





Flying into Japan?

If you are travelling to Tokyo and would like to acquire an authentic Japanese sword, be sure to book a **private meeting** with us in advance.

Many swords every year are sold this way to happy clients around the world. Contact service@uniquejapan.com where we'll discuss the type of sword, age and other special qualities you are seeking along with budget parameters. Meetings are held at our studio in near JR Ebisu station.