



ITEM# UJKA290

A NIDAI MASAHIRO KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688-1700)

Swordsmith: *Hizen no Kuni Kawachi no Kuni Fujiwara Masahiro (nidai, 2nd generation)*
Measurements: **Length:** 69.8cm (*ubu*) **Curvature:** 2.2cm **Moto-haba:** 3.22cm
Jihada: *Ko-mokume leading to Hizen konuka-hada, thick nie-deki*
Hamon: *Beautiful gunome midare with kinsuji, ashi and sunagashi*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #2-4: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*tsuba, fuchi-kashira & koshirae designated as Authentic*)
Fujishiro: **Jo-saku** (*ranked as a superior swordsmith*)
Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

SOLD

Nidai (second generation) *Masahiro* is the talented son of *Shodai Sadenjiro Masahiro*. He was born in 1627 and, like his father, worked under the patronage of the *Nabeshima Lord Katsushige* in *Hizen* province. He originally used the *Masanaga*, however, in 1661 when bestowed the title of *Kawachi no Kami*, he began signing his swords under the proud name of *Masahiro*. A full ten generations of *Masahiro*-line smiths worked until the very end of the *Edo* period.

Based on the sublime curvature of this katana, it would have been made later in his career during the *Genroku era*. A gorgeous *gunome midare hamon* radiates from the blade that is exquisitely forged in classic *konuka-hada* that *Hizen* school swords were famous for. A beautiful set of *Edo* period *koshirae* compliments the sword like a finely tailored tuxedo. The detailed *Hamono* school warrior-themed fittings speaks of the importance of uniting strategy, courage and perseverance in the quest of victory.

Saki-kasane: 5.2mm [^]

Kissaki: 4.08cm

Saki-haba: 2.22cm

Moto-kasane: 7.8mm

Nagasa: 69.8cm

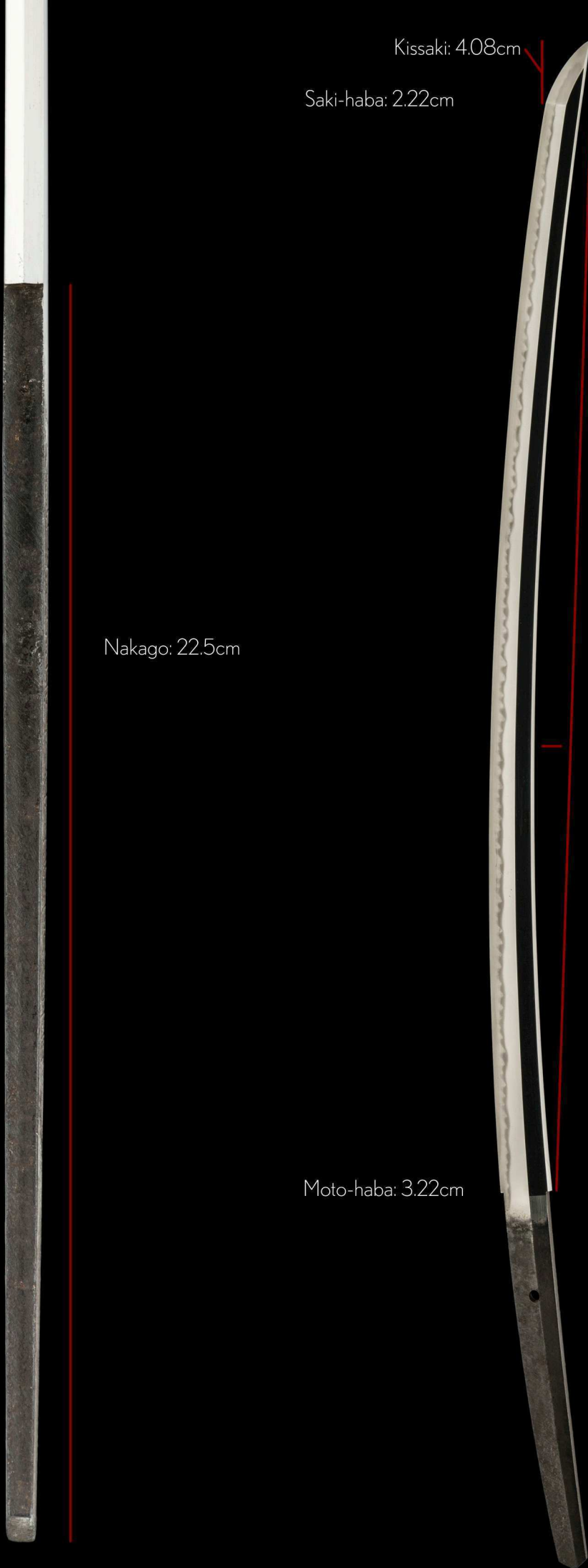
Nakago: 22.5cm

Sori: 2.2cm

Omosa: 890g

Moto-haba: 3.22cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



2nd generation Masahiro died at the age of 73 on August 6th, 1700.

The curvy shape of this sword speaks to the *Genroku era* (circa 1688) towards the end of his exceptional career.



Location: *Hizen no Kuni* (Hizen province)

Title: *Kawachi no Kami* (Lord of Kawachi province)

Clan: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Masahiro* [second generation]

Hi
zen
(no) kuni
Ka
wachi
(no) Kami
Fuji
wara
Masa
hiro



Like his father, shodai Masahiro, Nidai signed his katana *tachi-me* whereby the signature is chiselled on the side of the *nakago* that is facing *away* from the samurai when the blade is worn cutting-edge down.

Signing tachi-me is a characteristic of the majority of katana (not wakizashi) that were crafted in Hizen province.

特保
10199605



No 143357



鑑定書

長二尺三寸〇半

一、刀銘肥前国河内守藤原正広

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

平成十年六月十七日

財團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 10th year of Heisei (1998), June 17th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Hizen no Kuni Kawachi no Kami Fujiwara Masahiro


Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 0-bu han (69.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

classic *ko-maru boshi*
(slight turn-back)



A close-up photograph of a curved blade, likely a Japanese sword, showing a serrated edge. A line of kinsuji (black golden line) is visible on the blade. A red arrow points from the text to this line.

an unusually long and powerful
line of *kinsuji* (black golden line)
adds extra zest to the blade.



a delightful *gunome-midare hamon*
with strong brush strokes of *sunagashi*

Kuro-roiro-nuri saya uchigatana-koshirae
(黒呂色塗鞘打刀拵え)

*A classic uchigatana-koshirae with
glossy black-lacquered scabbard*

*Crafted during the late Edo period
(1800-1868)*



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate





The *tsuba* (guard) tells a fascinating tale of the *Battle of Miyamjima* in 1555. The inspirational story is *gekokujo* the "weak dominating the strong" - that the underdog shall prevail with smart strategy and emphatic perseverance.

This large polished iron tsuba with *nunome-zogan* in openwork design is attributed to the *Hikone school*, crafted in the mid-Edo period, circa 1700s.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate



(reverse)



Miyajima shrine

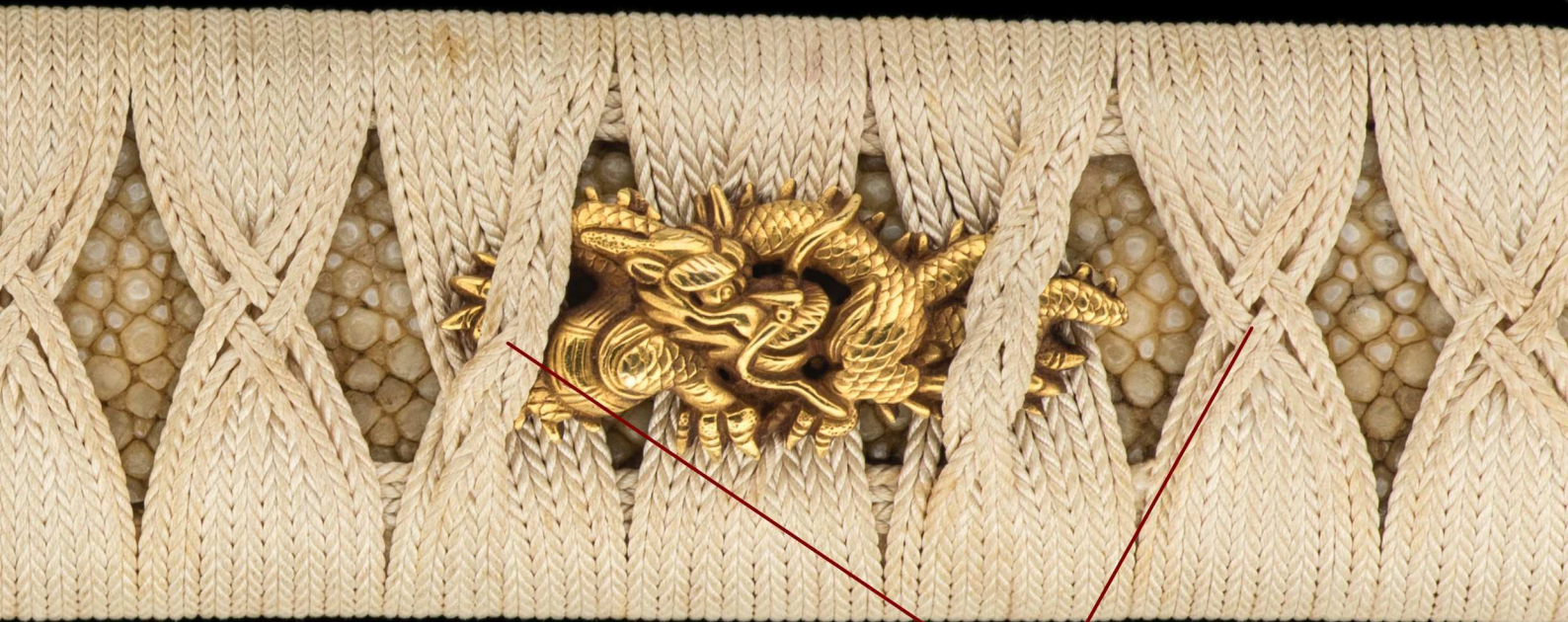
A confident warlord *Xiang Yu* is depicted on the *kashira* (pommel). Xiang Yu is said to have had a double pupil in one eye - a mark of a king or a sage.

Xiang Yu was slightly taller than eight *chi* (about 6' 1") and possessed unusual physical strength. The samurai have always admired the mastery of strength in battle combined with cunning military strategy. A story often represented in quality sword fittings.





Brilliant gold *Goto school* crawling dragon *menuki* are skilfully woven into the white silk braids of *jabara-ito*.



This type of *tsuka-maki* (hilt wrapping) is called *ajirokumi-agemaki*. Thin braids are used of which the outer four recess cross-laced atop and below of each other.



