

A Naoe Shizu Daishô

Nambokuchô period, circa 1368~1375

Mino province

Length: 71.2cm & 53.9cm

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon & Kicho certification

Complete custom daishô production in Japan



Technical drawing and certification documents for the daishô swords, including blade profiles, hilt details, and historical information in Japanese.

項目	内容
刀名	...
刀種	...
刀身	...
刀柄	...
刀拵	...
鑑定書	...

According to historical records swordsmiths populated Mino province in the *Hôgen* era (1156-1159) during the *Heian* period. However, its only once the very late Kamakura period (early 1300s) appeared that works by *Shizu Saburo Kaneuji* and *Kinju* have been confirmed.

To give a sense of context, Kaneuji is said to have moved from *Yamato* (Nara) to study under the great *Masamune* to become one of his ten finest pupils (*Masamune Jutetsu*).

Kaneuji eventually moved to Shizu district in Mino province and is largely considered the founder of the Mino tradition. Incidentally, shizu means 'still or 'calm in Japanese.

As one would have expected, Kaneujis works carry a strong mixture of *Yamato Tegai school* qualities (a jihada of mokume hada with straight grain masame hada) and the *Soshu* tradition with a hamon displaying *nie-deki* with plenty of hataraki such as *sunagashi* (streaks of sand), *kinsuji* (stripes of gold) and *inazuma* (crooked lightning bolts).

A noteworthy difference is that is that the hamon carries some *togari* (tapered peaks) in the hamon. As a basic rule of thumb, all Mino tradition swords have togari in the hamon.

Unsigned swords attributed to Kaneuji are known as Yamato Shizu (Shizu meaning 'Kaneuji). In the beginning, students of the ô-Shizu school (founded by Kaneuji) and of the Naoe Shizu School moved to Naoe district also in Mino province to differentiate themselves.

Notable students include *Kaneyuki* (son of *Kaneshige*), Tametsugu (a disciple of either one of the greats *Gô Yoshiro* or *Norishige*), *Kanetoshi*, *Kanenaga* (which the NTHK-NPO attributed this sword to in their *Yushusaku* certificate), *Kanetsugu*, *Kanenobu* and later generations of *Kaneuji*.

What makes the Naoe Shizu School different from that of ô-Shizu is that the *sugata* (shape) is superior; key traits being that of a *wide mihaba* and *ô-kissaki*. Both of which, according to Nagayama Kokan of the *Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords*, "*lend to a grand appearance*".

Of equal importance to note is that the jihada has swirling pools of *itame* mixed with *mokume*. The folding pattern in the steel has a direct influence on the hamon displaying *sunagashi* (streaks of sand).



Saki-kasane: 3.8mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 5.2mm

Omosa: 685g

Kissaki: 4.14cm

Saki-haba: 2.35cm

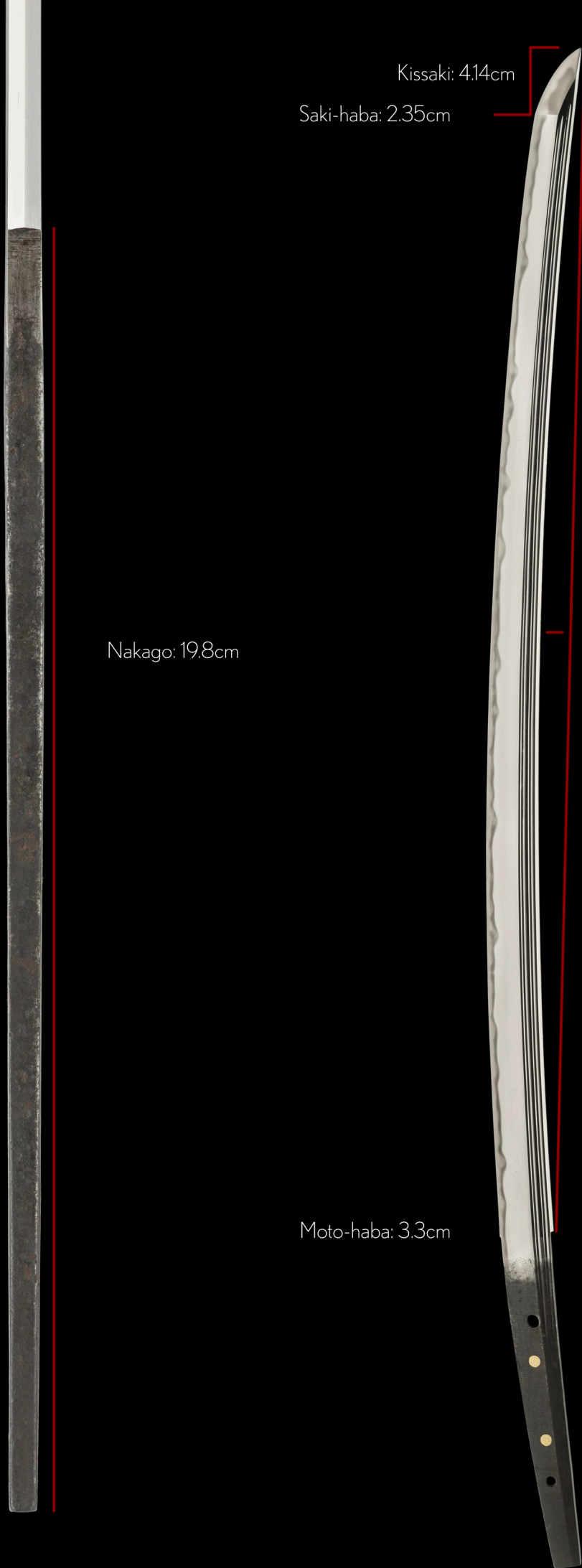
Nakago: 19.8cm

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Nagasa: 71.2 cm

Sori: 1.6cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



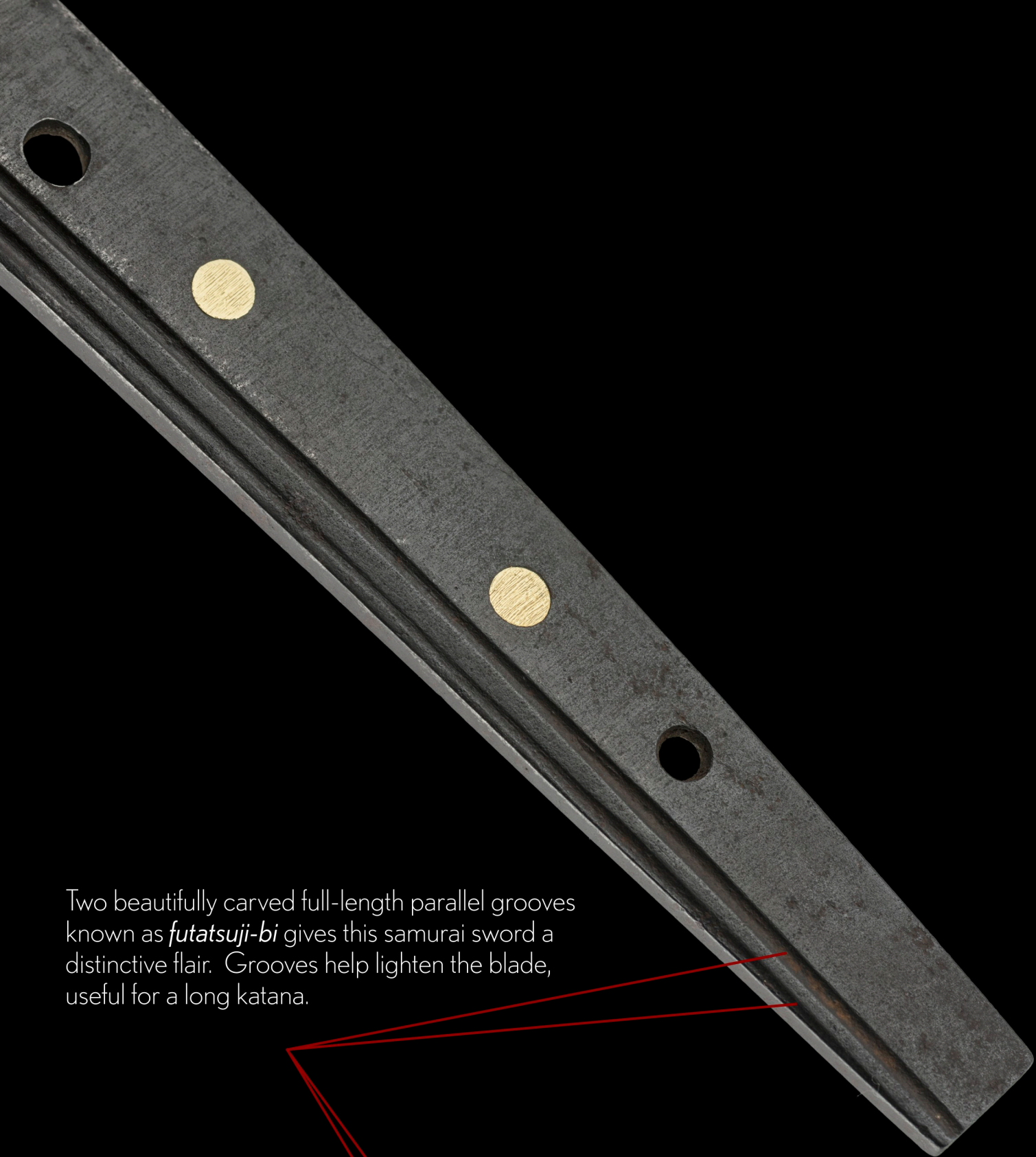


Location: *Mino province* (Gifu prefecture)

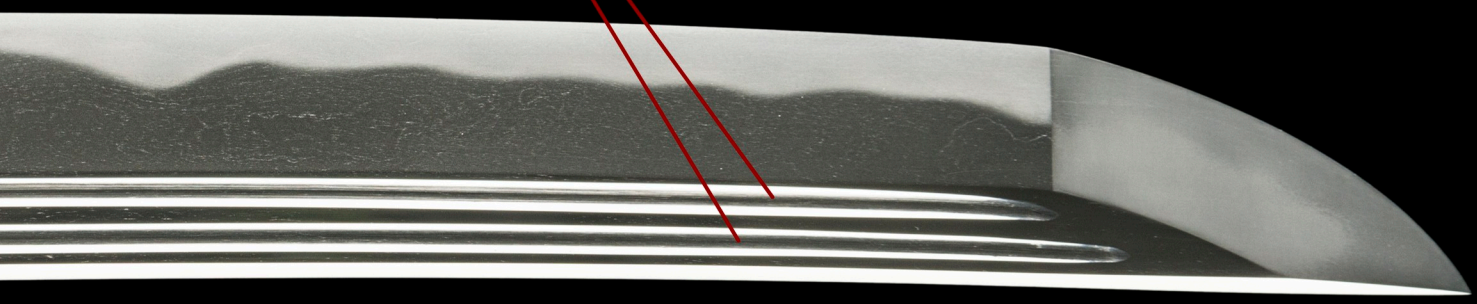
o-suriage-nakago (greatly shortened tang)

kiri-yasurime (straight file marks)

gold-filled *nakago-ana* (holes)



Two beautifully carved full-length parallel grooves known as *futatsuji-bi* gives this samurai sword a distinctive flair. Grooves help lighten the blade, useful for a long katana.



特保
25201305



No 1001376



鑑定書

一、刀 無銘（直江志津）

長二尺三寸五分

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

平成二十五年六月二十八日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



愛知 教育委員会
第 32494 号
昭和42年12月12日

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

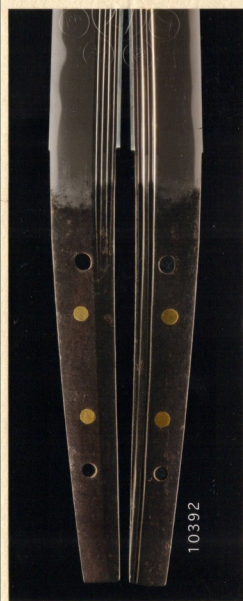
Issued in the 25th year of Heisei (2013), June 28th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei
(Naoe Shizu)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (71.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



捺 査 査 員 印	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	影 り	鋒 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 一 万 三 百 九 十 二 号
	心 安 頃			目釘穴 四 個内ニ埋め 鑓 勝手下がり	裏、二筋樋中心 中程で掻き流し	表、二筋樋掻き 通し	浅く乱れ込み、 小丸返り	処々突出した刃を 交える互の目乱れ		板目詰む	鎚造り	大磨り上げ無銘	
											庵棟		

NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Yushusaku* (Highly Excellent) by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Den Nôshû Naoe Shizu Kanenobu

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu kore ari (71.2cm)

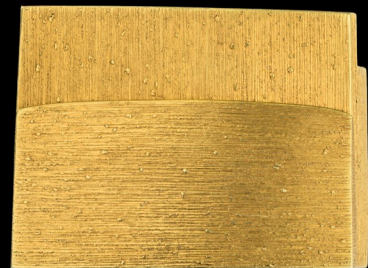
Issued in 1st year of Reiwa (2019), December 15th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

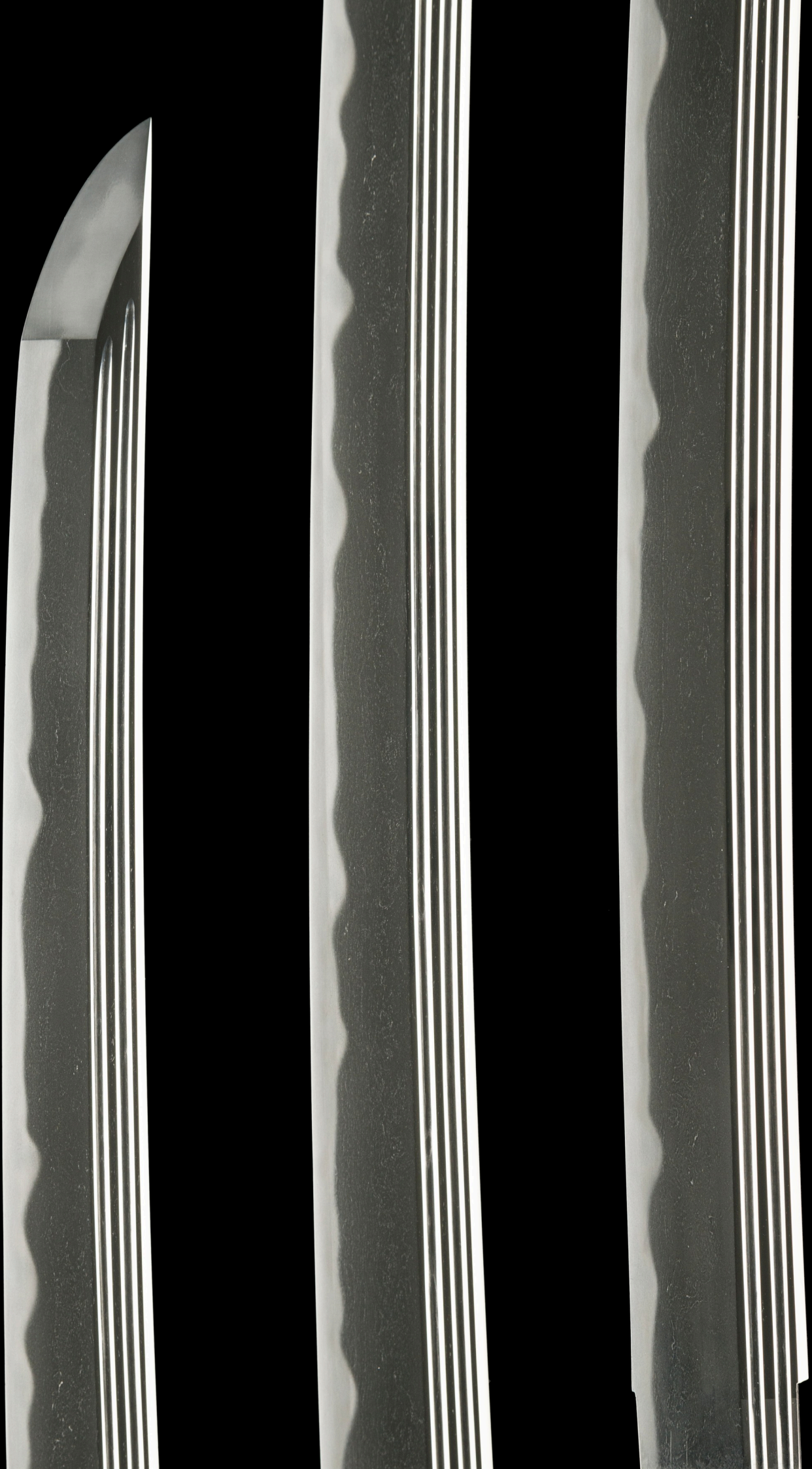
This sword has reached the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO.
Five judges have stamped their names to the certificate.

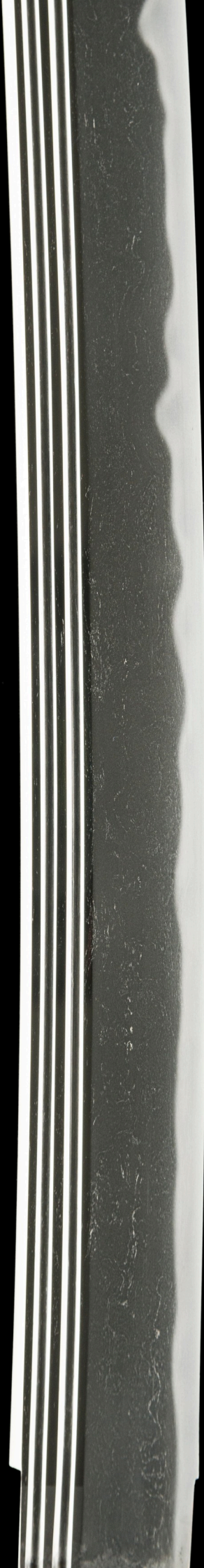
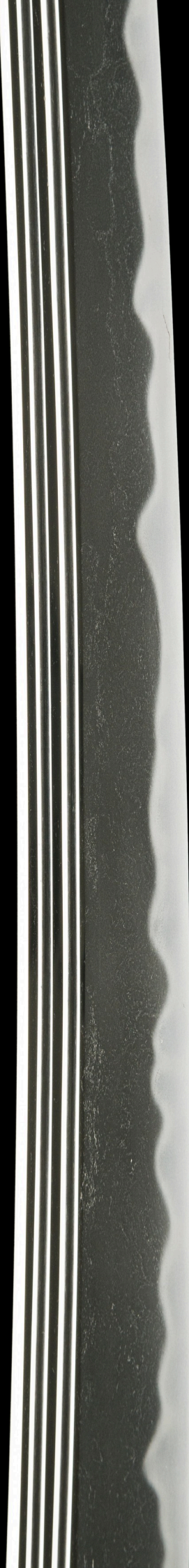
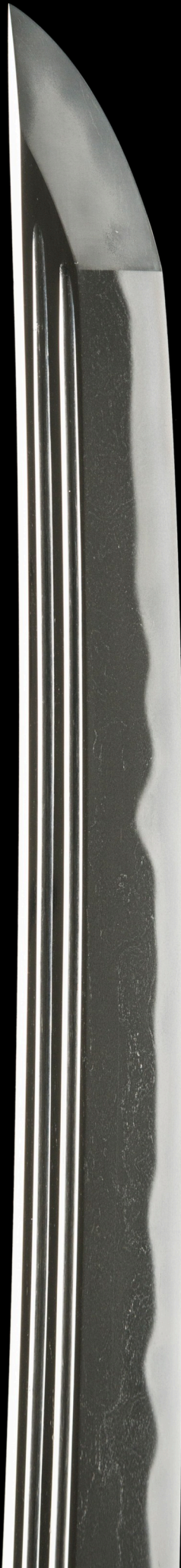


Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

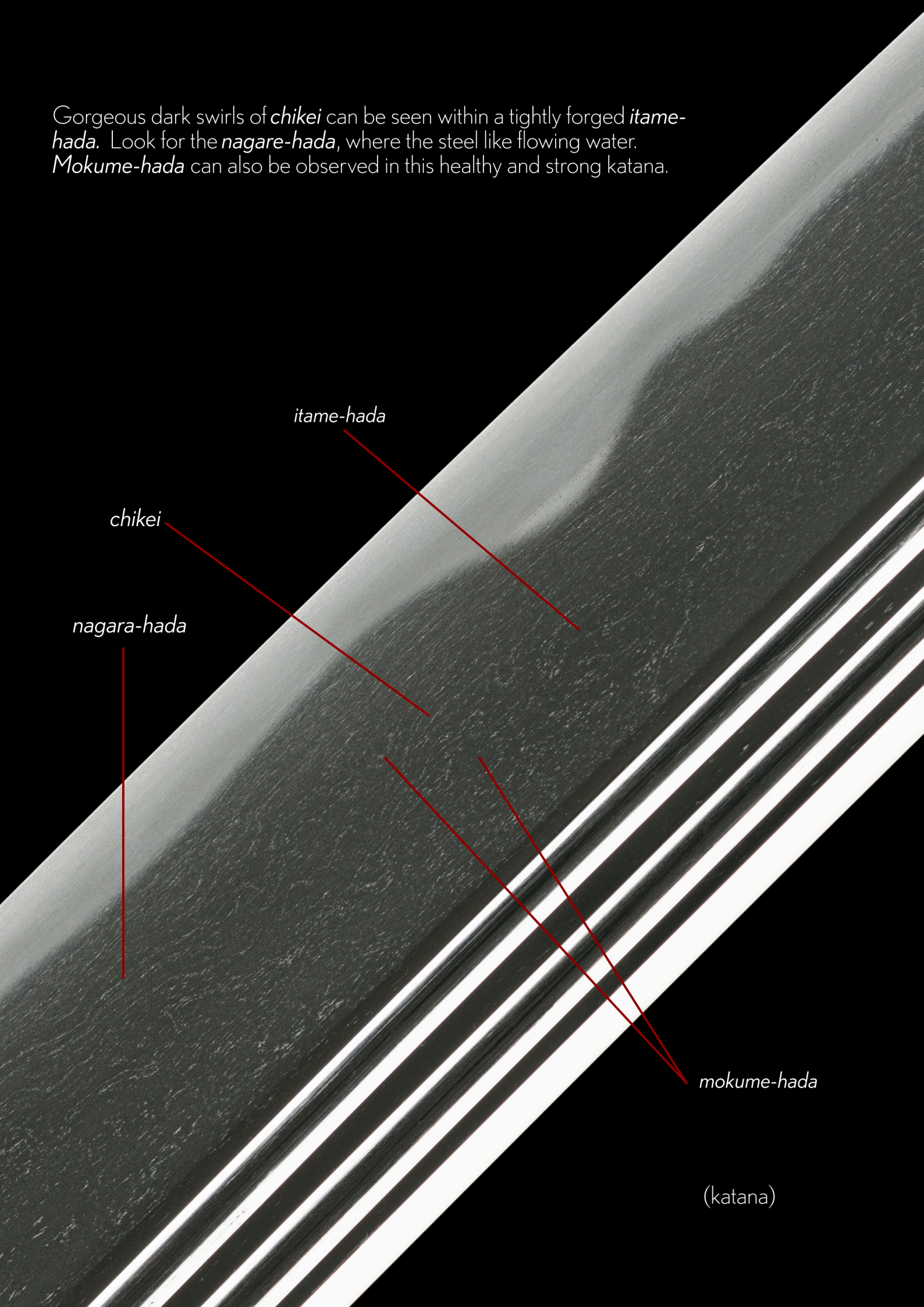


gold *habaki*
with crisp file marks





Gorgeous dark swirls of *chikei* can be seen within a tightly forged *itame-hada*. Look for the *nagara-hada*, where the steel like flowing water. *Mokume-hada* can also be observed in this healthy and strong katana.



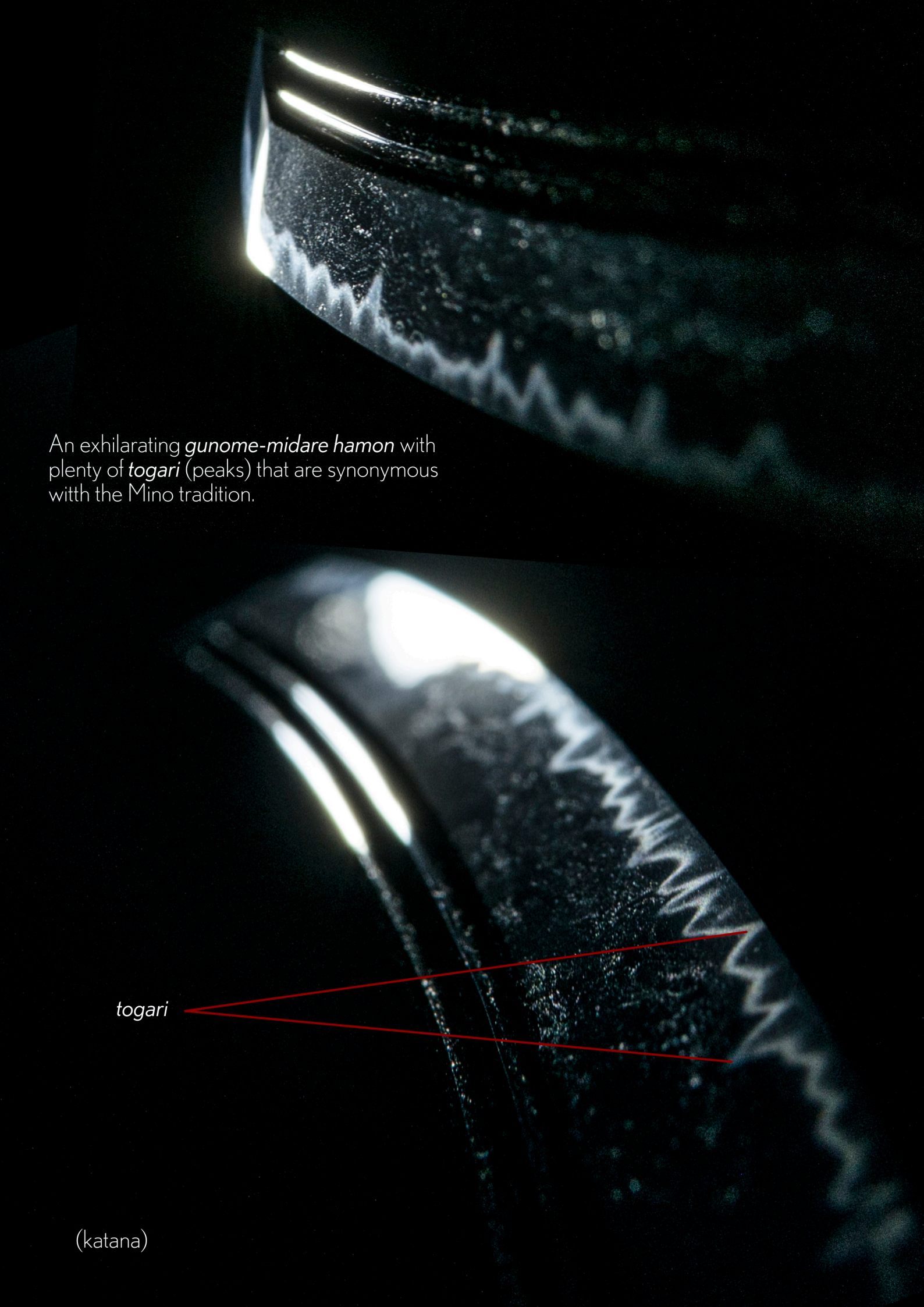
itame-hada

chikei

nagara-hada

mokume-hada

(katana)



An exhilarating *gunome-midare hamon* with plenty of *togari* (peaks) that are synonymous with the Mino tradition.

togari



(katana)

The *shô* (wakizashi) of the daishô has been attributed to the Naoe Shizu school by an early team at the NBTHK (1963) that included the former founder/director Dr. Satô Kanzan.

The recent team at the NBTHK has attributed the sword to *Echizen Kanenori* who smithed during the late Muromachi period, circa the Tenbun period (1532~1555).

Kanenori was a student of a *Seki Kanenori* but moved in the fifth year of Tenbun (1536) at the invitation of *Asakura Takakage* - the shugo military governor of Echizen province - from *Uruma* to *Matsuoka* in Echizen province. With the downfall of the Asakura family, he was employed by *Shibata Katsuie* whereupon he moved to Ichijôdani.





Saki-kasane: 3.8mm

Moto-kasane: 4.2mm

Omosa: 475g

Kissaki: 4.23cm

Saki-haba: 2.33cm

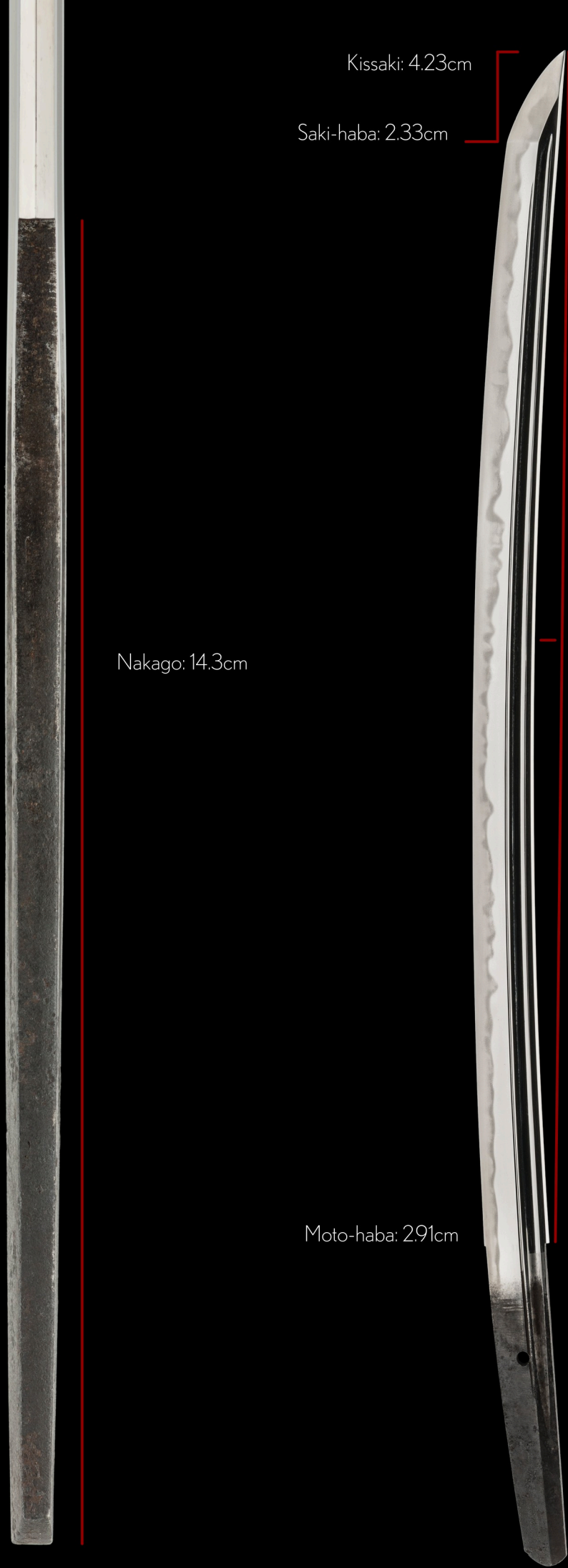
Nakago: 14.3cm

Moto-haba: 2.91cm

Nagasa: 53.9cm

Sori: 1.00cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Nakago
(mumei, unsigned)

認定書

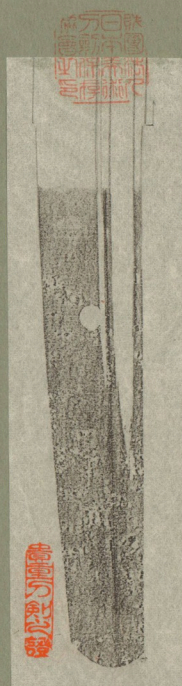
一脇指 無銘（直江志津）一口
長一尺七寸八分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重
として認定す

昭和三十八年十一月二十四日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

梶谷俊夫 殿



NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Precious*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 38th year of Showa (1963), November 24th

One, Wakizashi

Mumei (unsigned)
Naoe Shizu

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 7-sun 8-bu (53.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

01201909

No 3022359



鑑定書

一、脇指無銘（越前兼法）

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

令和元年十二月二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



大阪府 教育委員会
第 126455 号
平成26年12月18日

NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 1st year of Reiwa (2019), December 2nd

One, Wakizashi

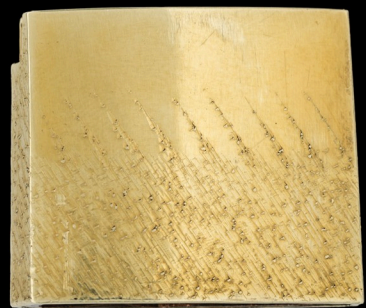
Mumei (unsigned)
Echizen Kanenori

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 7-sun 8-bu jaku (53.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold *habaki* with
diagonal file marks



伝 尾張徳川家

Den Owari Tokugawa-ke

Inherited through the Tokugawa Family from Owari Province

無銘 志津

Mumei Shizu

Unsigned, Shizu

刃長一尺七寸七分余有之

Hachô 1-shaku 7-sun 7-bu amari kore ari

Blade length ~53.9 cm

(reverse side reads *Nakagawa ke*)

Property of the Nakagawa family



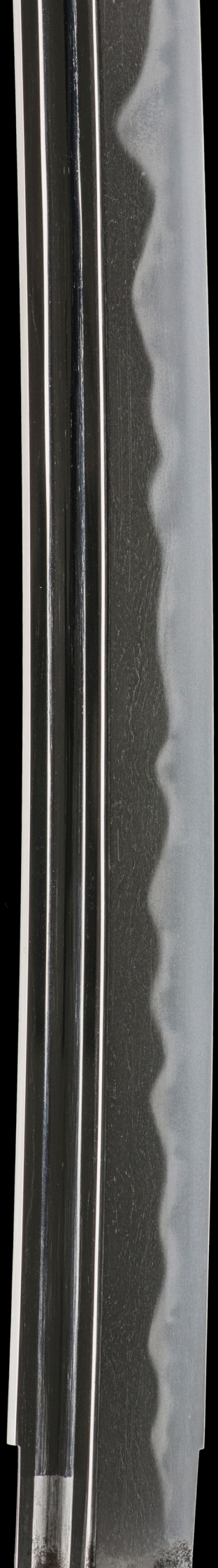
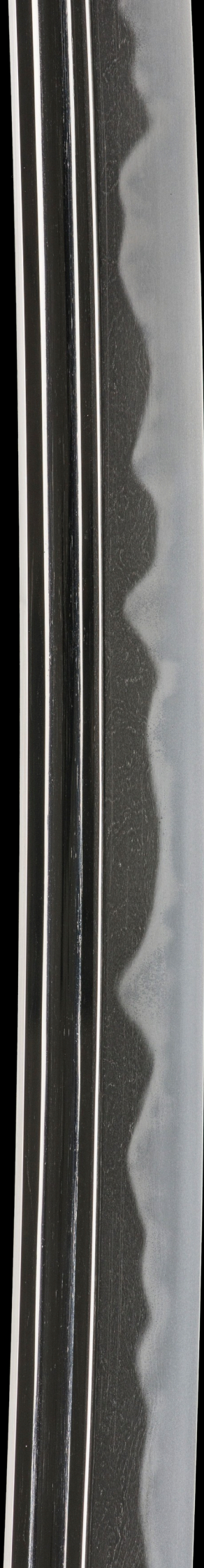
直江志津
Naoe Shizu
Naoe Shizu

但大磨上無銘也
Tadashi Ô-suriage Mumei nari
Ô-suriage, unsigned

刃長壹尺七寸七分有之
Hachô 1-shaku 7-sun 7-bu kore ari
Blade length ~53.9 cm

昭和壬子年卯月吉日寒山誌(花押)
Shôwa Mizunoe-Ne doshi uzuki kichijitsu Kanzan shirusu + kaô
Written by Kanzan on a lucky day in the second month of
Shôwa, the year of the mouse (1972)







A bright *gunome midare hamon* also with Mino tradition *togari* peaks brings unity to the *daisho*.

(wakizashi)

Aogai-mijin-nuri saya
daishô-koshirae
(青貝微塵塗鞘大小拵え)

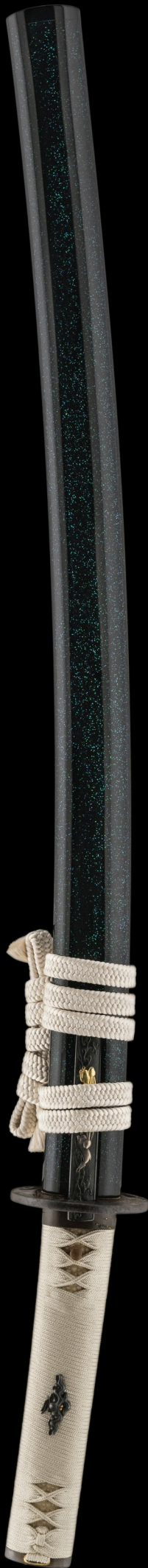
Daishô-koshirae
decorated with
sprinklings of mother-of-pearl

Daisho crafted exclusively in
Japan from 2020 to 2022.

A Unique Japan production.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



Wakizashi Koshirae





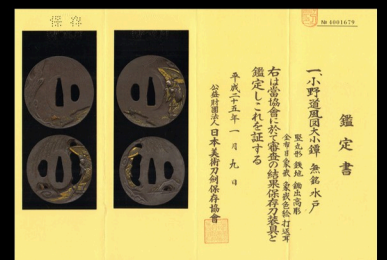
The exquisite mother-of-pearl dustings on the *saya* (scabbards) appear like the majestic night sky.





This gorgeous *daisho tsuba* set is attributed to the work of the *Mito school* and pays tribute to *Ono no Michikaze* (894 ~ 966) - a prominent *shodōka* (Japanese calligrapher) during the *Heian* period (794-1185). Michikaze is considered the founder of Japanese style calligraphy or *wayōshodō*.

As the story goes, one day when Michikaze was feeling inadequate about his calligraphy he took a walk outside in the rain. Seeing a frog trying to jump on a willow branch, again and again missing its mark, he thought to himself "*Stupid frog! No matter how many times you try you will never be able to reach the willow*". Upon thinking this, the willow curved in a big breeze allowing the frog to jump onto the willow. Michikaze then realized "*I myself am the stupid one. The frog created this chance with his determination. Up until now I haven't been as diligent as this frog*".



NBTHK Hozon Kanteisho
Daisho certification



Reach out, and be determined.



No 4001679

鑑定書

一、小野道風図大小鐔 無銘 水戸

豎丸形 鉄地 鋤出高彫
金布目象嵌 象嵌色絵 打返耳

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十五年一月九日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon
Certificate of Designation

A tsuba designated as *Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 25th year of Heisei (2013), January 9th

One, Daishō Tsuba

Depicting Ono Michikaze

Mumei (unsigned)
Mito

*Elongated round shape, iron, relief carved from ground plate,
superficial gold inlay, inlay and color accents, hammered rim*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



How a rabbit reached the moon, a Japanese folk tale...

One night, the Man on the Moon came down to earth disguised as a beggar. He chanced upon a Fox, a Monkey, and a Rabbit (*usagi*) and asked for some food. The Fox brought him fish from a stream, and the Monkey brought fruit from the trees, but the Rabbit could only offer grass. So he told the beggar to build a fire, and when it was built, threw himself onto the flames to offer himself to the Man. Amazed by the Rabbit's generosity, the beggar transformed back into the Man on the Moon and pulled the Rabbit from the fire. To honour the Rabbit's kindness, the Man on the Moon carried the Rabbit back to the moon to live with him. Now, if you look at the full moon, you can see the outline of the *Rabbit pounding mochi on the moon*. The tale even goes on to explain why the moon is grey: it's seen through the smoke of the fire that fateful night.

On the night of the *Harvest Moon* (the 15th day of the 8th lunar month), people gather to enjoy the beauty of the full moon for *Otsukimi* (literally "looking at the moon"). This moon festival, some-times called the Mid-Autumn Festival, is a popular holiday for all classes to pray for a good harvest. Many foods are a part of the celebrations, but most iconic are the *tsukimi dango*. Made simply by steaming a dough of rice flour and water, these little mochi-like balls are white and round like a full moon.



30201810



No 2005245

鑑定書

一月波図大小縁頭 無銘 河野派

四分磨地 鋤出高彫 金銀象嵌色絵

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成三十年十一月十六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A tsuba designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 30th year of Heisei (2018), November 16th

One, Daishō Fuchigashira

Depicting the moon and waves

*Mumei (unsigned)
Kôno-ha*

*Polished shibuichi, relief carved from ground plate,
inlay with gold and silver accents*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

hira-maki



This style of wrap is called *ikkan-maki*, a combination of *jabara-maki* on the outsides and *hira-maki* (flat) in the center.



Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) depict Japanese Marberry evergreen trees covered in snow. Marberry's abundant fruit is enjoyed by birds and small animals and is also edible to humans. Its dense foliage provides significant cover for wildlife. This set of matching *daishō* menuki have been attributed to the prestigious *Gotō school* from the Edo period and come with NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification papers.



特 選
31201904



№ 2005690

鑑 定 書

一、雪持藪柑子図大小目貫 無銘 後藤

赤銅地 容彫 色絵

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

令和元年五月二十八日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A tsuba designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 1st year of Reiwa (2019), May 28th

One, Daishô Menuki

Depicting a Japanese Marberry tree with snow

*Mumei (unsigned)
Gotô school*

Shakudô, three dimensional with motif forming the outline, color accents

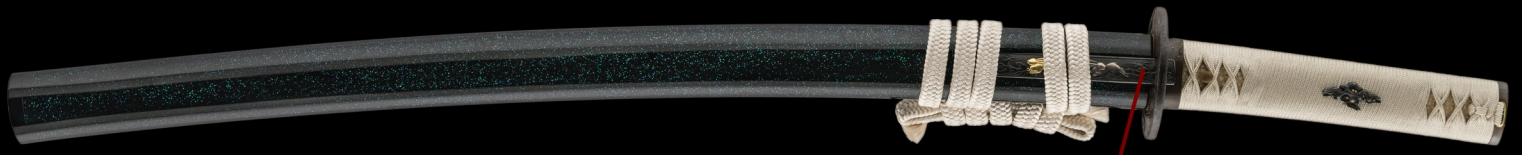
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



A *kogatana* is a thick blunt needle that was primarily used as a hair arranging tool by the samurai. It is fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard) and drawn through the 'bumpy' hole in the tsuba.

A rabbit among waves is the featured design.





kozuka (utility knife)



Congratulations Robert.

Warm regards,
Pablo