



ITEM# UJKA326

A TSUNATOSHI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD (14TH YEAR OF TENPO, FEBRUARY 1843)

Swordsmith:	<i>Yonezawa-shi Chōunsai Tsunatoshi (ubu-nakago, shodai - first generation)</i>
Client:	<i>Mimura Tadashi – Hōkoku no Tanshin (for Loyalty and Patriotism!)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 70.3cm Curvature: 2.15cm Moto-haba: 3.2cm Weight: 925g
Jihada:	<i>Densely forged ko-itame hada in nioi-deki with light shirake utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gunome-choji-midare with tobiyaki, ashi, kinsuji and sunagashi</i>
Boshi:	<i>Hakikake (brushed) with midare-komi</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation)
Certificate #2-4:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae, tsuba & fuchi-kashira designated as authentic)
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (a superior swordsmith)
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

First generation master swordsmith *Chōunsai Tsunatoshi* was a student of the great *Suishinshi Masahide*. Tsunatoshi moved to Edo during the Bunsei era (1818~1830) where he worked in the residence of the *Uesugi family*, the *daimyō* of *Yonezawa domain*.

This remarkable and rare katana was commissioned to Tsunatoshi by samurai *Mimura Tadashi*, a member of the *Kaizu fief*. Boldly chiseled with the characters *Hōkoku no Tanshin* (loyalty and patriotism) this sword embodies a profound devotion in servitude for the Tokugawa family.

Saki-kasane: 5.9mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 8.6mm

Omosa: 925g

Kissaki: 4.55cm
Saki-haba: 2.22cm

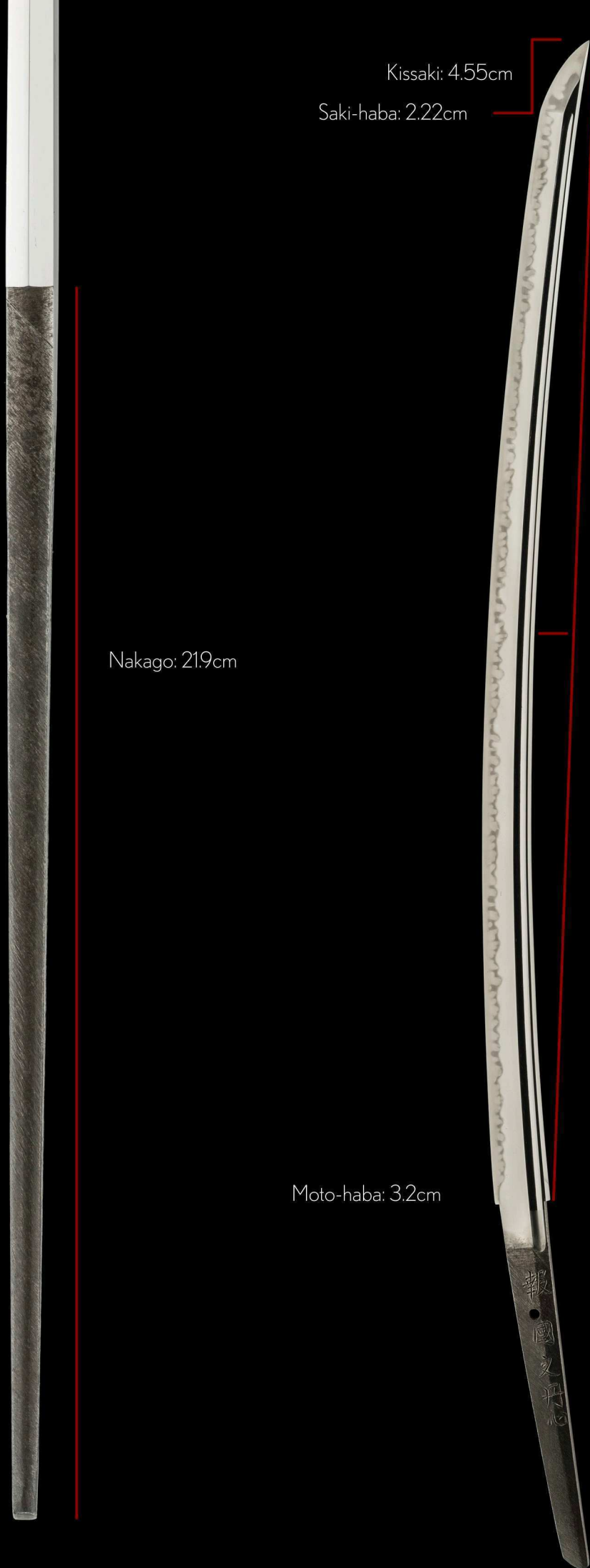
Nakago: 21.9cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 70.45cm

Sori: 2.15cm

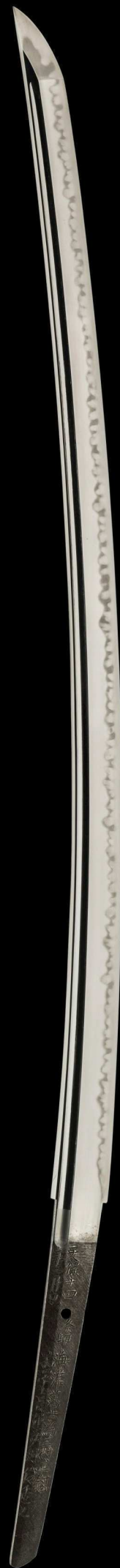
Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Katô Hachirô*, swordsmith Tsunatoshi was a student of grandmaster *Suishinshi Masahide* just like his father *Katô Kunihide*.

Tsunatoshi moved to Edo during the *Bunsei era* (1818~1830) where he worked in the residence of the *Uesugi family*, the daimyô of Yonezawa.

This wide and formidable katana weighs nearly one kilogram - densely forged with a thick *kasane* (spine). It's a masterclass work of art from a great Shinshintô talent.



Location: *Edo*

Title: *Chôunsai*

Swordsmith: *Tsunatoshi* (first generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

kesho-sujikai-yasurime (cosmetic file marks)

*Yonezawa-shi Chôunsai Tsunatoshi
kore o tsukuru*

Crafted by Chôunsai Tsunatoshi
retained by the Yonezawa fief

*Tenpô 14 mizunoto usagidoshi
2-gatsu bi*

Dated to a day in February 1843,
Year of the Hare (rabbit)

*Kaizu hanshi Mimura Tadashi
nagusami no tame*

For [samurai] Mimura Tadashi,
retained by the Kaizu-han (fief)

(doshi) 年
(ni) 二
(gatsu) 月
(bi) 日

(Yone) 米
(zawa) 澤
(shi) 士
(Chô) 長

(un) 運
(sai) 齋
(Tsun) 綱

(toshi) 俊
(tsukuru) 造
(kore o) 之



天 (Ten)
保 (pô)
十 (jû)
四 (yon)

癸 (mizunoto)
卯 (usagidoshi)

海 (Kai)
津 (zu)

藩 (han)
士 (shi)

為 (no tame)
三 (Mi)
村 (mura)

正 (Tadashi)
慰 (nagusami)

A summary of the inscription:

Samurai *Mimura Tadashi*, a member of the Kaizu fief commissioned this sword to swordsmith *Chounsai Tsunatoshi*, retained by the *Yonezawa fief*.

The sword was completed successfully in February 1843, during the Year of the Hare.

The Kaizu fief was controlled by the *Takasu-Matsudaira* branch of the ruling Tokugawa family during the Edo period.



Samurai Tokugawa Mochinaga (June 11, 1831 – March 6, 1884) was the son of Matsudaira Yoshitatsu of Takasu (Kaizu) han. His brothers included the famous Matsudaira Katamori, Matsudaira Sadaaki, and Tokugawa Yoshikatsu.

Together, the four men were known as the Takasu yon-kyôdai or "Four Brothers of Takasu".

Hôkoku no Tanshin

For Loyalty and Patriotism!



報

報 (Hô)

●
國

国 (koku)

文

之 (no)

丹

丹 (tan)

心

心 (shin)



報
● 國
文
母
心

Samurai *Mimura Tadashi* requested Tsunatoshi that the characters '*Hôkoku no Tanshin*' be chiseled on the ura (reverse side) as a symbol of his [Mimura's] *loyalty and patriotism* for the Tokugawa family.

Talk about a statement.

30201803

No 1008759



福岡県教育委員会
第 26523 号
昭和31年 4月 12日

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と
鑑定しこれを証する
平成三十年六月十三日
公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



二分 銘
鑑定書
米沢士長運齋網俊造之
天保十四年二月日
海津藩士為三村正慰
報國文丹心
長二尺三寸二分

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 30th year of Heisei (2018), June 13th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

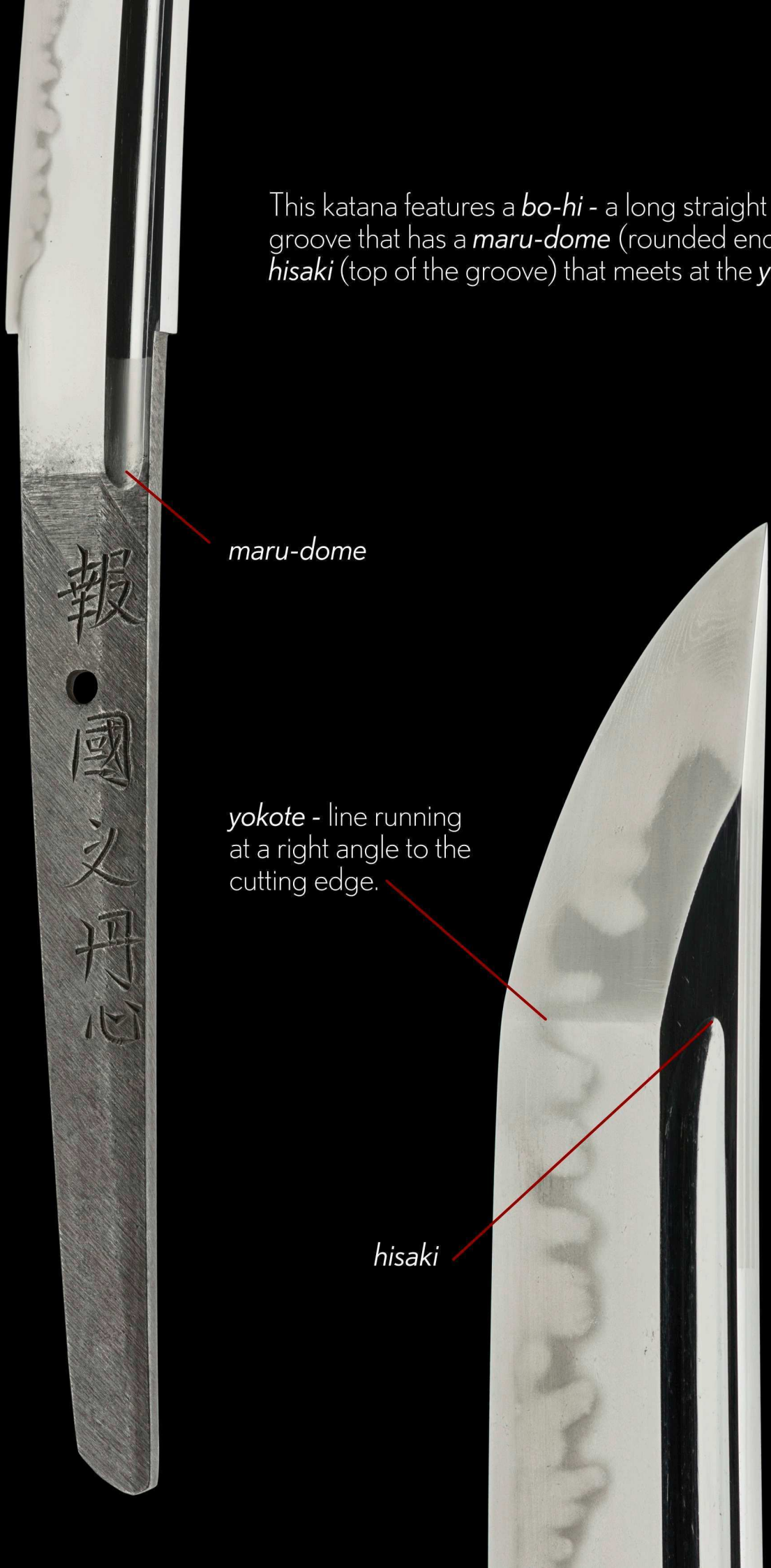
*Yonezawa-shi Chôunsai Tsunatoshi kore o tsukuru
Tenpô jû-yon mizunoto-usagidoshi nigatsu hi
Kaizu hanshi Mimura Tadashi nagusami no tame
Hôkoku no Tanshin*

Nagasa (length)

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

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

This katana features a *bo-hi* - a long straight wide groove that has a *maru-dome* (rounded end) and a *hisaki* (top of the groove) that meets at the *yokote*.



maru-dome

yokote - line running
at a right angle to the
cutting edge.

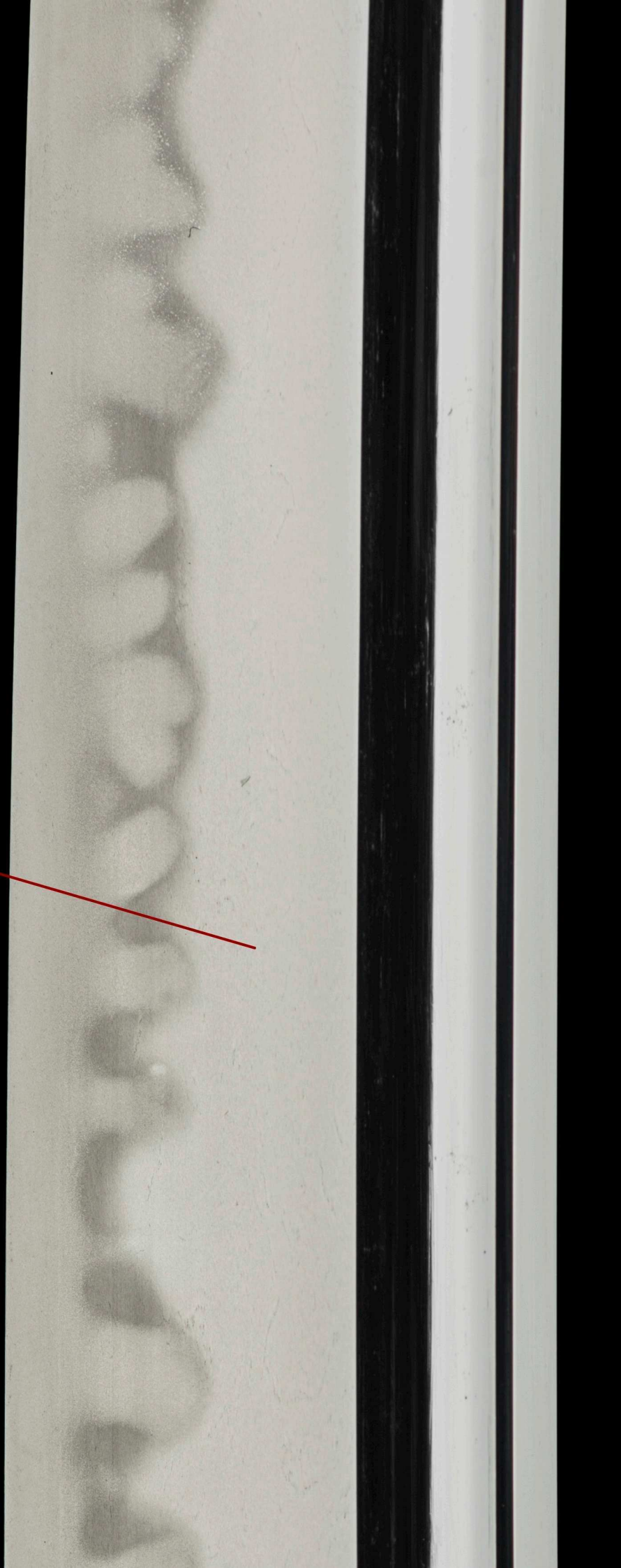
hisaki

Standing tall is a wavy *midare-komi boshi*
that is a flowing continuation of the *hamon*.

Note the *hakikake* (brushed elements).



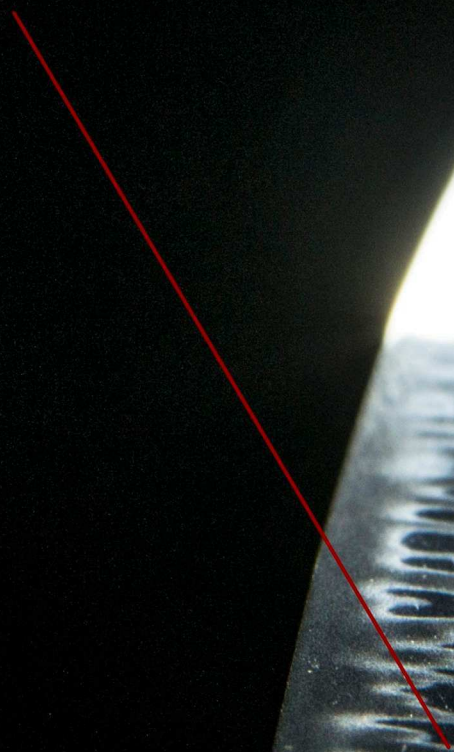
Tsunatoshi enjoys a reputation of forging blades so well-packed that the surface grain pattern has a mirror-like finish referred to as *muji-hada*.





Forged in *noi-deki*, the *nioguchi* (crystals that make up the *hamon*) are uniform in appearance producing a tight wavy beam of light.

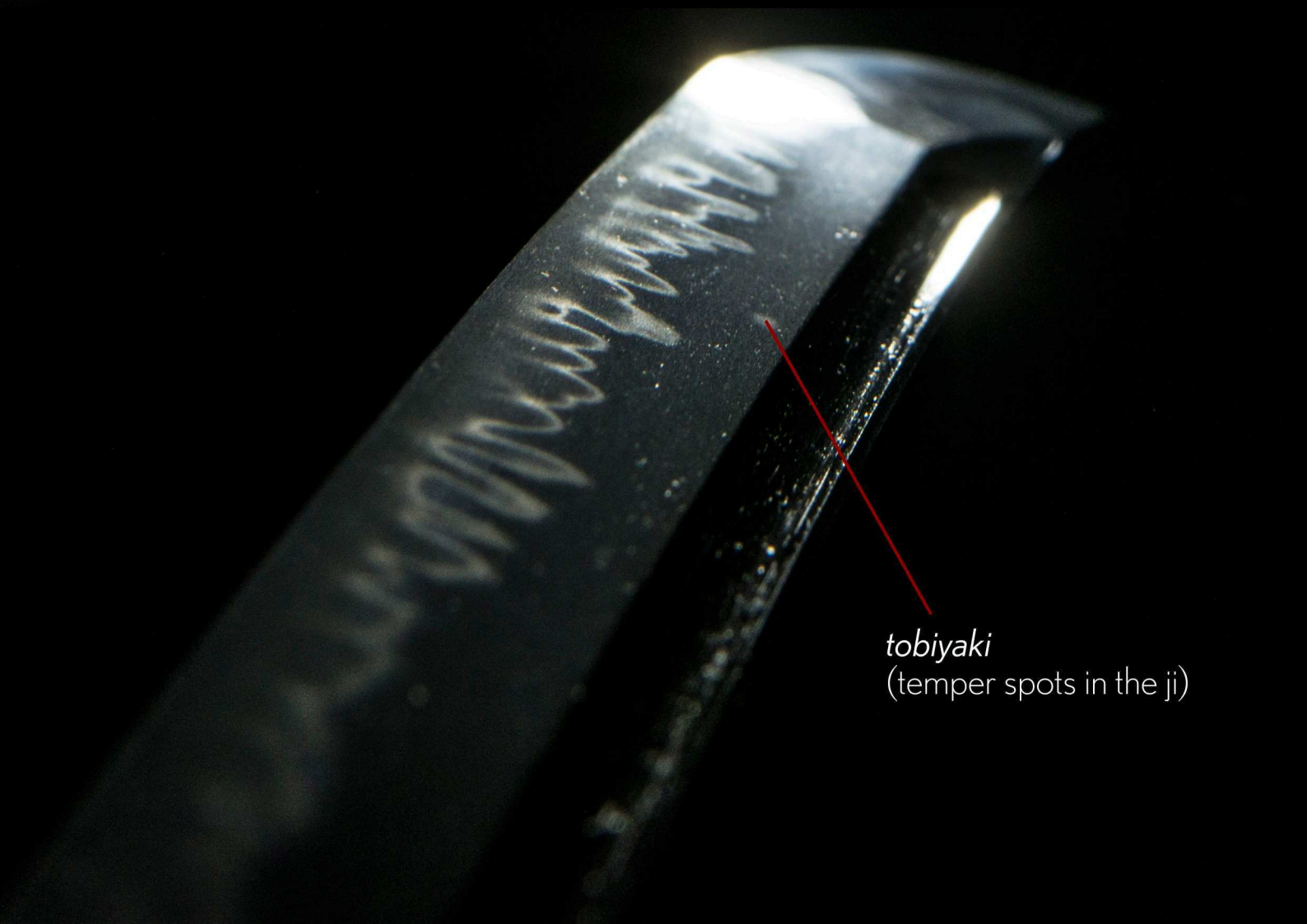
Gunome-choji-midare hamon -
a beautiful temper line that
resembles clove blossom buds.





sunagashi - brushed effect through the hamon

kinsuji - dark line of nie through the hamon

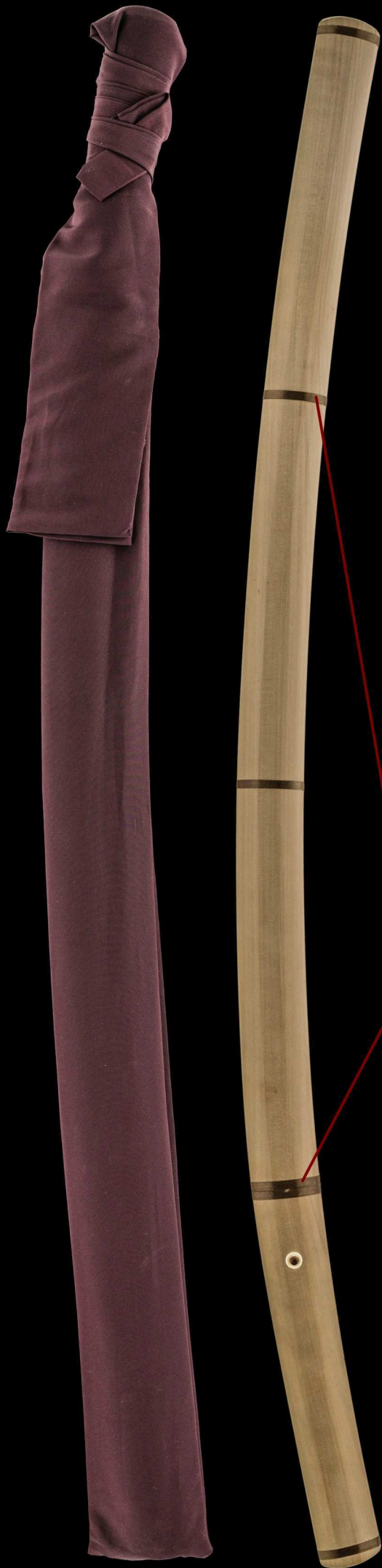


tobiyaki
(temper spots in the ji)

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, focusing on the jihada (edge) area. The blade is dark, and the edge is highly reflective, creating a bright, curved highlight. Below the highlight, a series of whitish, shadow-like patterns are visible, which are the result of the Utsuri technique. A red line points from the text to these patterns.

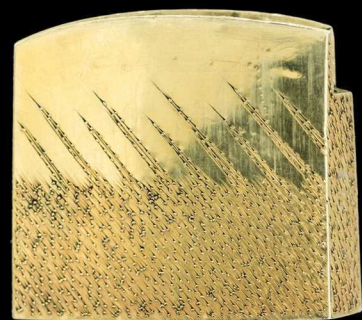
Utsuri

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



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

strips of bamboo secure the shirasaya
adding a beautiful finishing touch

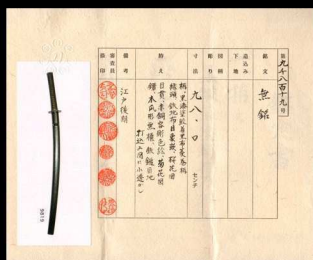


gold *habaki* with
diagonal file marks

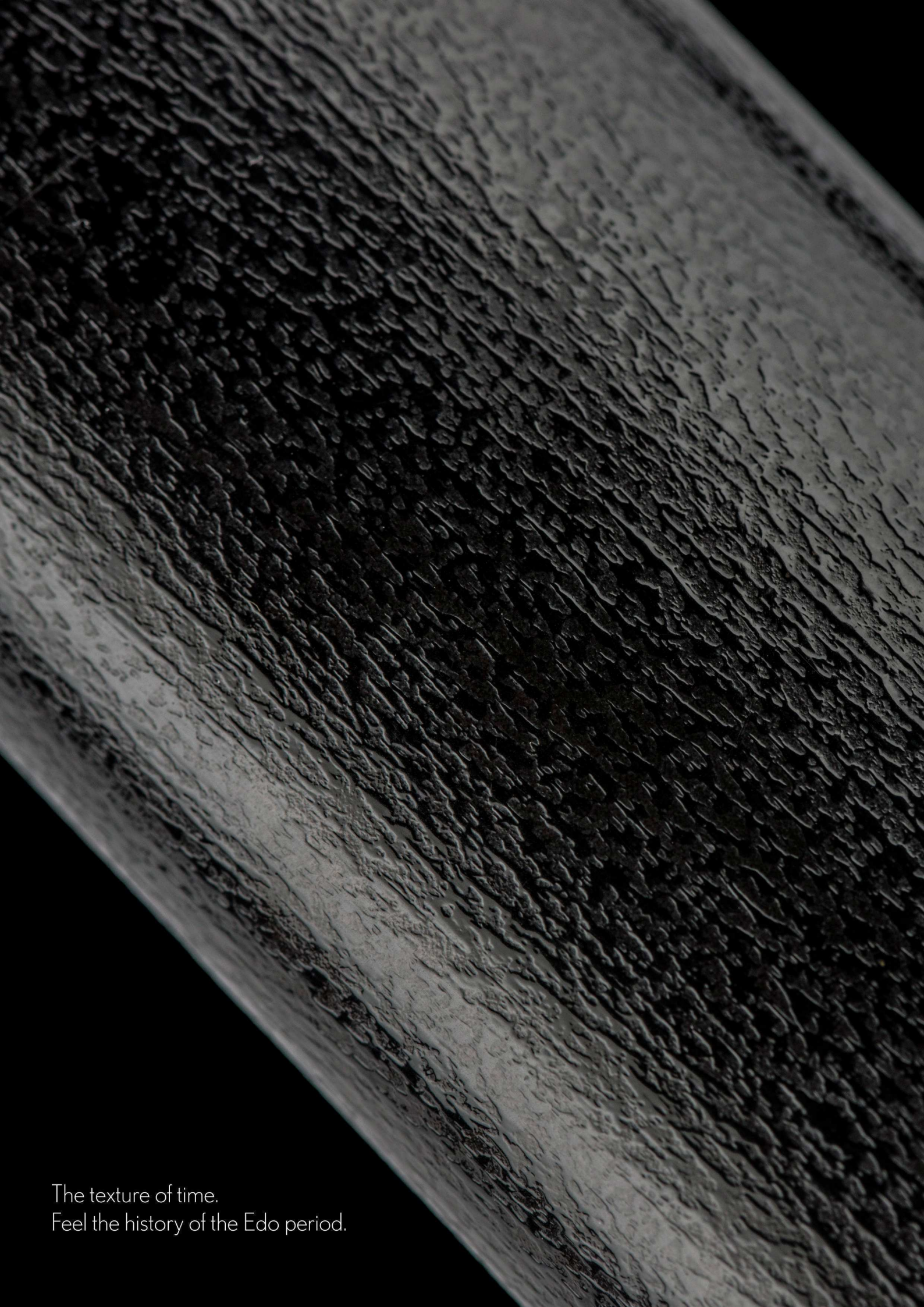
*Kuro-jiwa-kawa-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒皺皮塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae lacquered in
black with wrinkled leather-like
textured saya*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



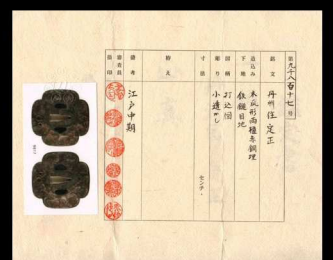
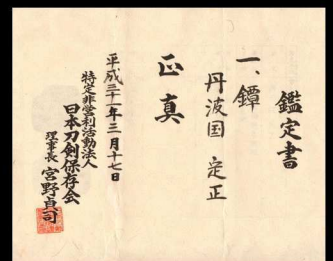
The texture of time.
Feel the history of the Edo period.



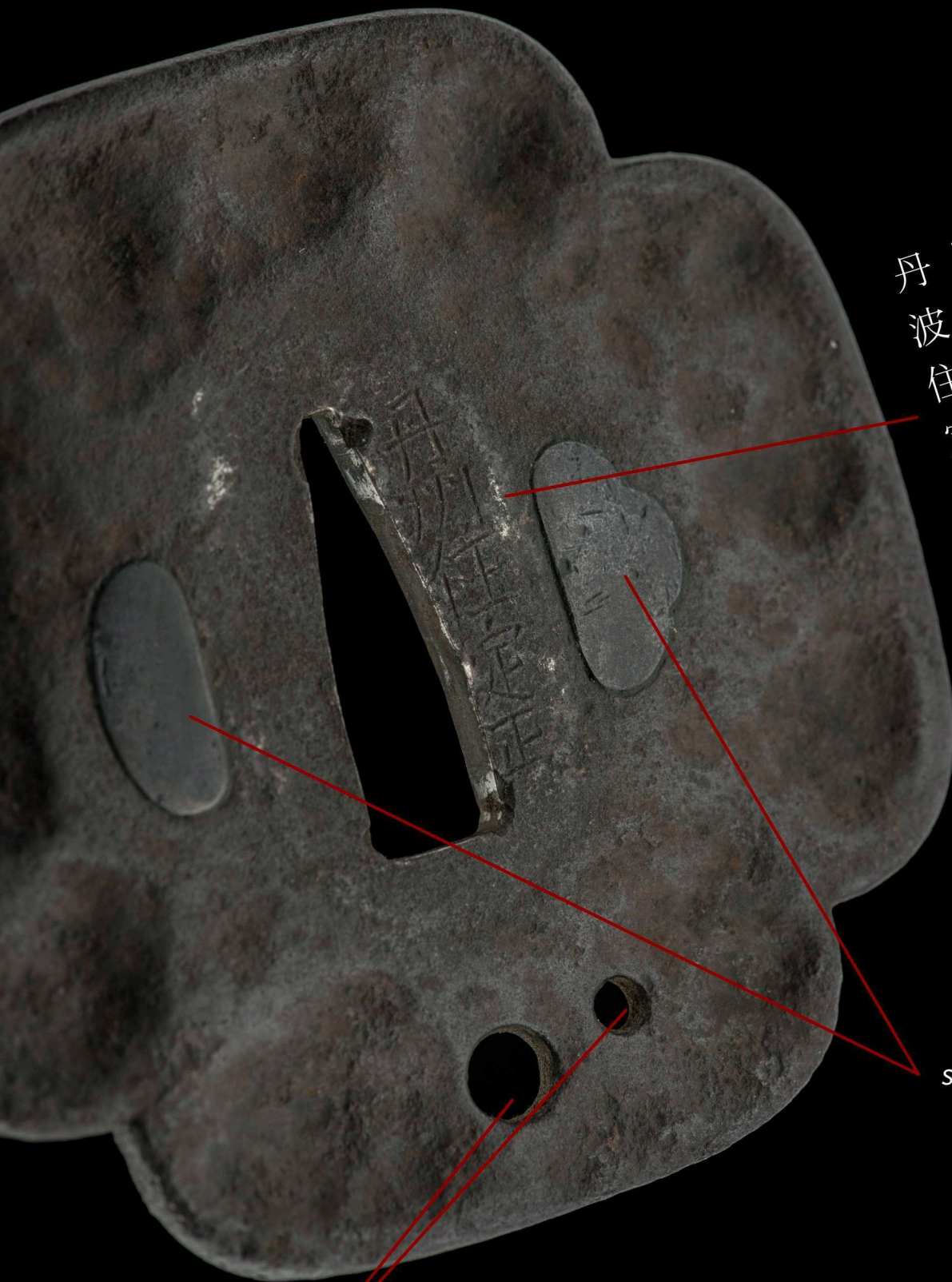
This muscular Tsunatoshi katana is balanced with an imposing *mokko-gata* (lobe-shaped) iron tsuba with a unique hammered pattern. The tsuba is signed by metalsmith *Sadamasa* residing in Tanba province during the mid-Edo period, circa 1700-1780.

As the holes for a *kozuka* and *kogai* were not needed, they were inlaid with pure *shakudo* - a luxury that only a well-to-do samurai could afford.

This tsuba comes with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



丹 Tan
波 ba
住 ju
定 Sada
正 masa

shakudo inlay

Udenuki ana (two small holes) were common on older tachi tsuba serving the purpose of a safety wrist strap when the sword is used on horseback. The holes are of different size and close together as seen above.

During the Edo period replicating this design became popular and can be seen on wakizashi and katana sized tsubas.



(reverse)



sakura
(cherry blossoms)



This hilt is a true samurai antique from the late Edo period, locked in time to fully admire. It is uniquely wrapped in black *nuno* (linen) *hishimaki* style over black-lacquered *samekawa* (ray skin). The *fuchi-kashira* is made of iron with gold crosshatches in the motif of falling *sakura* (cherry blossoms). The *menuki* are three dimensional bunches of imperial *kiku* (chrysanthemum) flowers.



This *fuchi-kashira* has been attributed to the Higo region in Kyushu province dating to the late Edo period (1780~1867).

A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO will be included for the new caretaker of this katana.



Spring winds may blow the petals away - but the sakura tree still strives...

For just three weeks of the year, the sakura blossoms.

The short life and beauty of the cherry blossom is a powerful metaphor for mortality and the absolute loyalty of the samurai.