



ITEM# UJKA336

SOLD

A KIYOMITSU KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (JÔÔ ERA: 1652~1655)

Swordsmith: *Kashû-ju Harima no Daijo Kiyomitsu (ubu nakago, 2-character signature)*
Measurements: **Length:** 63.9cm **Curvature:** 0.9cm **Motohaba:** 2.97cm
Jihada: *Itame and nagare-hada with chikei*
Hamon: *Clear suguha in ko-nie deki with kuichigaiba*
Certificate 1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate 2-3: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*a koshirae, tsuba and fk designated as Authentic*)
Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

Born in *Kaga* province with the name *Chôzaemon* and later changing to *Jirôkurô*, swordsmith *Kiyomitsu* worked during the *Jôô era*, circa 1652~1655. He signed his swords *Kashû-jû Harima no Daijô Fujiwara Kiyomitsu* or simply *Kiyomitsu* such as we find on this katana.

This katana has a distinctive Koto-period charm even though it was crafted during the Shinto period that the NBTHK Hozon certificate makes clear. The bright *suguha hamon* over a standing out *itame* and *nagare-hada* with Yamato-esque *kuichigaiba* gives the eye plenty of admirable qualities. The unique *Kashû-nakago-jiri* makes it clear this is a proud *Kaga* province katana, one of the wealthiest areas of Japan during the Edo period. This sword comes with a full set of nature-inspired *koshirae* with depictions of *ume* (plum) and *sakura* (cherry blossom) and a proud peacock. The uniquely lacquered *saya* (scabbard) compliments the blade magnificently well.



Saki-kasane: 4.2mm

Moto-kasane: 5.9mm

Omosa: 620g

Kissaki: 3.06cm

Saki-haba: 2.00cm

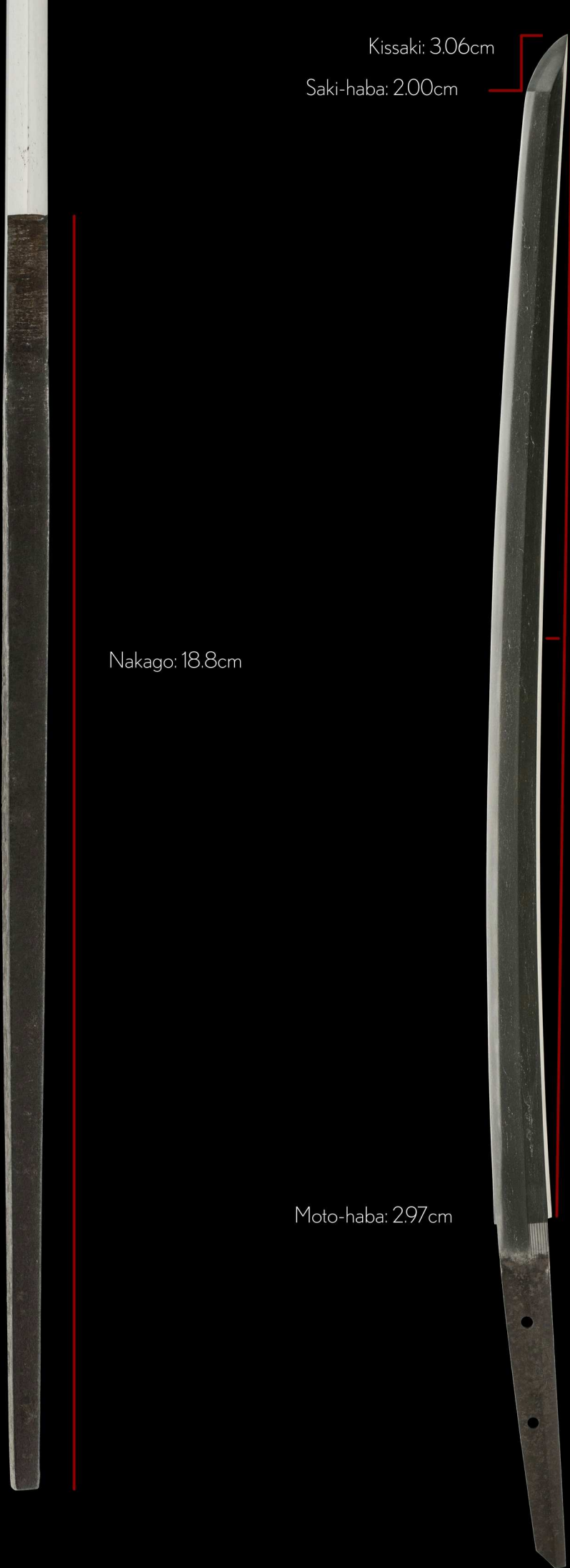
Nakago: 18.8cm

Moto-haba: 2.97cm

Nagasa: 63.9cm

Sori: 0.90cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Born in *Kaga province* with the name *Chôzaemon* and later changing to *Jirôkurô*, swordsmith *Kiyomitsu* worked during the *Jôê era* (pronounced like the name 'Joe'), circa 1652~1655 .

He signed his swords *Kashû-jû Harima no Daijô Fujiwara Kiyomitsu* or simply *Kiyomitsu* such as we find on this katana.

The word *Kashû* is an alternative way of saying *Kaga* (province).

His blades feature a hamon with either *suguha* or *ô-notare*, in *ko-nie deki* with a standing out *itame* with *nagare-hada* that gives the sword an older Koto feel. The unique *Kashû-nakago-jiri* can also be seen.

This katana comes with a full set of koshirae that has an *ume* (plum) and *sakura* (cherry blossom) and peacock theme with a nature-inspired lacquered *saya* (scabbard).





Location: *Kaga* (resident of Ishikawa)
Swordsmith: *Kiyomitsu*

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)
kiri-yasurime (straight file marks)

清 (Kiyo)

光 (mitsu)

An extra hole in the *nakago* was created in the past for the likely purpose of further securing the katana into a particular hilt.

This second hole was *not* a result of shortening the sword.

(*ura*, reverse)



The shape of the *nakago-jiri* (butt-end of the tang) is called *iriyama-gata*. *Iri* means 'enter' and *yama* is 'mountain', suggesting at the '*base of a mountain*'.

This short, flat area moving into an acute angle is typically seen on swords from *Kashû* (Kaga) province, thus referred to as *Kashû nakago-jiri*.

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No 389883



鑑定書

長三尺一寸一分

一刀 銘 清光 (加州・新刀)

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

平成三四年一月二十七日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



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 24th year of Heisei (2012), January 27th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Kiyomitsu

(*Kashû* province, *Shintô* period)

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 1-sun 1-bu (63.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)





A flowing *nagare-hada* mixed with an *itame-hada* that stands out to the eye.

There is an old-world charm to the *jihada*.





kuichigai-ba is the area of the *hamon* where the *nioguchi* overlaps for a noticeable distance.

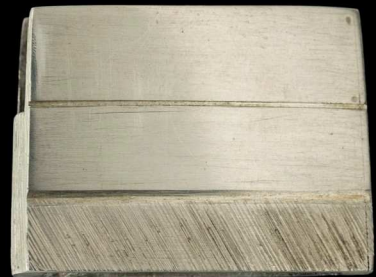
This unique feature is generally seen on swords crafted in the Yamato tradition.

A clear *suguha hamon* embeds the blade like an old soul.





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

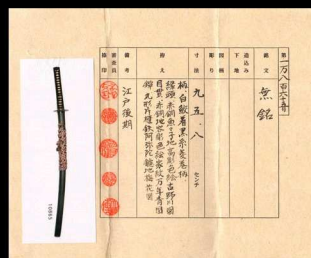


silver *habaki* with
mixed file marks

*Kuro-ishime-ji-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒石目地塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in black with
unique stone-surface texture*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



The lacquered texture on the *saya* suggests an abstract tribute of natural elements; fire, clouds, frost, water...



The antique protective *kojiri* (end cap) holds a design of *karakusa* (vines) symbolizing health and longevity.





Amida Nyorai, the Buddha of Limitless Light, sits upon a lotus pedestal with his hands forming the mudra of meditation.

Amida presides over his own paradise, the Western Pure Land, to which he welcomes any being who calls upon his name.

His benevolent gaze, directed toward the viewer below, is symbolic of this boundless compassion.

Originally installed at a temple in the vicinity of *Mount Kôya*.

Amida Nyorai (Buddha of Limitless Light)
Circa 1250 - The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET)

Amida-yasuri (file marks)





The fuchi (collar) depicts the floating *sakura* petals along the *Yoshino* river on *Shikoku* island.



The *menuki* are artistic representations of *omoto* (*Rohdea japonica*), highly prized plants in Japan. They are wrapped over with black silk.





Kashira (pommel)

The *kiji* (peacock) is associated with the deity called *Kannon* in Japan. It is a symbol of compassion and kind-heartedness.

It is believed to have the power to counteract poison and invoke rain ensuring good health.