



ITEM# UJKA428

## A NIDAI KANEMICHI KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688~1704)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Tanba no Kami Kanemichi (2nd generation, Settsu province)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 71.4cm ( <i>ubu</i> ) <b>Curvature:</b> 1.36cm <b>Moto-haba:</b> 3.02cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Tightly forged ko-itame-hada</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Rhythmic gunome-midare with deep nioi and nie</i>
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (Especially Worthy of Preservation)</b>
<b>Certificate #2-4:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteishō (sword, koshirae, fk and tsuba certified as Authentic)</b>
<b>Fujishiro rank:</b>	<b>Chūjō-saku (ranked as an above average swordsmith)</b>
<b>Sharpness:</b>	<b>Wazamono (maker of good sharp swords)</b>
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, Tsugaru-nuri koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description

**SOLD**

*Nidai Kanemichi* was born *Mishina Kaheji* and was the son of *shodai* (first generation) *Kanemichi*, who also signed *Naomichi*. He flourished during the *Genroku* era in *Settsu* province (*Ōsaka*) although he also worked in *Edo* - modern day *Tōkyō*. Like his famous *Mishina* ancestor *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi*, he signed the character 'Tan' inspired by a sail. This *jō-sun* (2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu) katana features a marvellous snow-capped *gunome-midare* hamon that uniquely bunches of groups of two and three. Awesome cloud dragons guard the *koshirae* both on the *fuchi-kashira* and *menuki* and the *saya* displays a gorgeous lacquer work called *Tsugaru-nuri* originating from wintery *Aomori*. This sword was rightfully awarded *Tokubetsu Hozon* in 2001 exactly on Christmas day. Perhaps Santa will make this a present for you or someone special in your life?

^  
Saki-kasane: 4.2mm

Moto-kasane: 6.2mm

Omosa: 705g

Kissaki: 3.24cm  
Saki-haba: 2.01cm

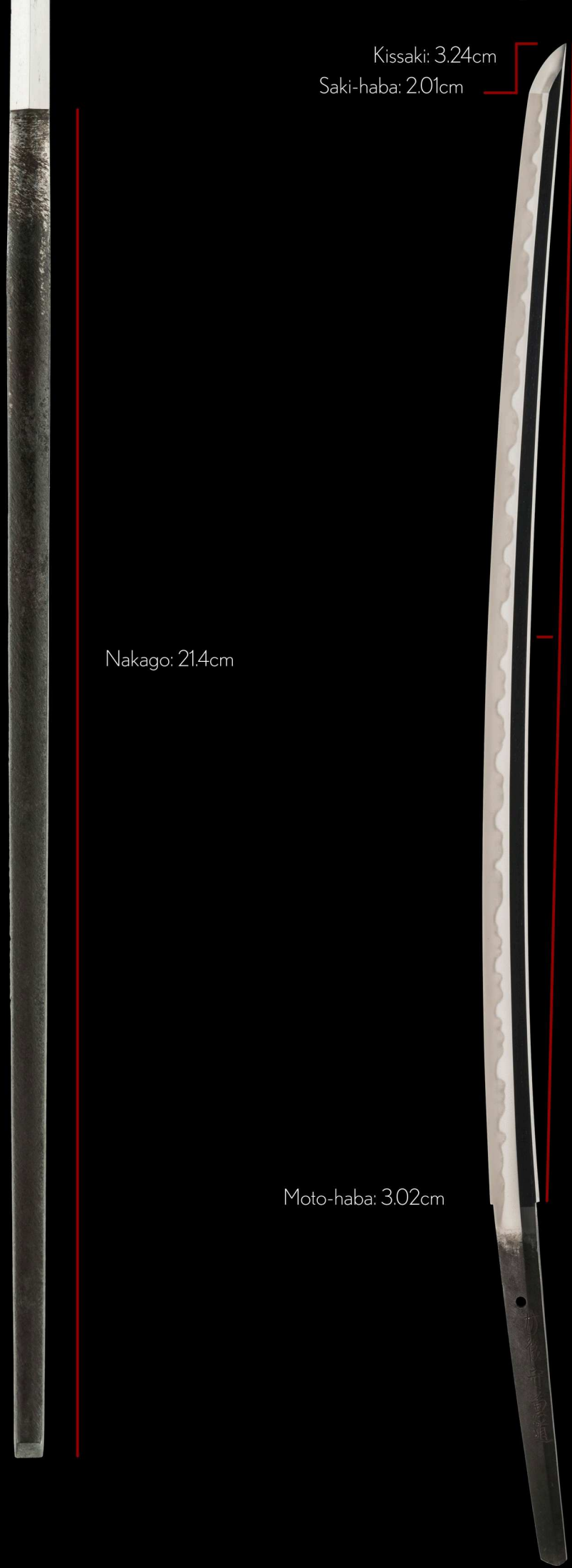
Nakago: 21.4cm

Moto-haba: 3.02cm

Nagasa: 71.4cm

Sori: 1.36cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



*Nidai Kanemichi* was born *Mishina Kaheji* and was the son of *shodai* (first generation) Kanemichi, who also signed Naomichi. He flourished during the *Genroku* era in *Settsu* province (*Osaka*) although he also worked in *Edo* - modern day *Tôkyô*.

This striking katana is a feast for the shintô period senses. From the rhythmic snow-capped hamon skiing along the blade in bunches of two and three to its glorious koshirae where cloud dragons and a gorgeous lacquerwork called *Tsugaru-nuri* takes centre stage, this is a sword that will always please.

Although Kanemichi may be ranked *chûjô-saku* (an above-average smith), this superb and healthy sword rivals the work of any *jô-saku* or *jôjô-saku* smith. *Nidai Kanemichi* is also ranked *wazamono* for the sharpness of his swords.

Enjoy!



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

Swordsmith: *Kanemichi* (2nd generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

*sujikai-yasurime* (diagonal file marks)



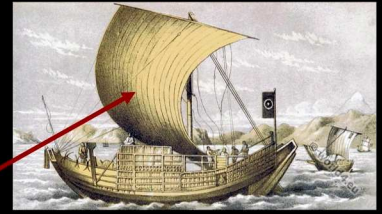
丹 (Tan)

後 (go, no)

守 (Kami)

兼 (Kane)

道 (michi)



Japanese sailing ship off the coast of *Shimada*.

*Shodai* (1st gen.) *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi* from *Kyôto* uniquely signed the top *Tan* 丹 character of his title like the billowing sails of a sailboat. Thus he is referred to as *Hokake* (sail) *Tanba*. Subsequent generations followed the sail-inspired chiselling of this first character.

There were two main branches of the *Mishina* school, one in *Kyôto* and the other in *Ôsaka*, which this blade belongs to. Blades of the two branches can be distinguished by the way in which they chiseled the "*kami*" character.

The *Kyôto* branch (*Kyô-Tanba*), placed the stroke pointing to the west to north-west position.

The *Ôsaka* branch (*Ôsaka-Tanba*) as depicted here chiselled the same stroke pointing to the *south*.



*mekugi-ana*

The patina has aged beautifully, crisp file marks and one clean *mekugi-ana*.

(*ura*, reverse)

特 選  
13200111

№ 146939



鑑定書

長二尺三寸五分弱

一刀銘丹後守兼道

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

平成十三年十二月二十五日

財団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 13th year of Heisei (2001), December 25th

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Tango no Kami Kanemichi*

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (71.4cm)

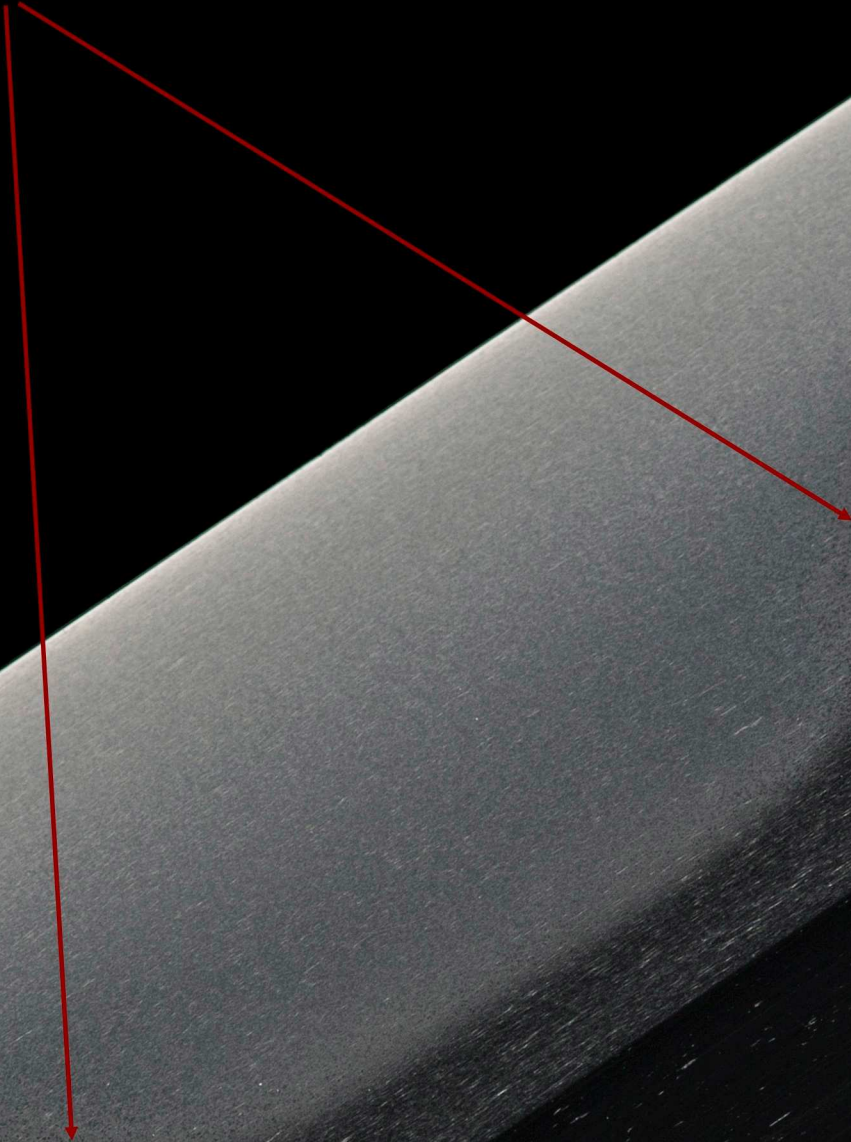
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyôkai  
(NBTHK)






Although there is deep *nioi* when viewing the hamon, there is a definite stream of *nie* crystals when zoomed in.

*nie* crystals



Tightly forged *ko-itame hada*





This marvellous *gunome-midare hamon* connects in bunches of two or three stretching high into the body of the sword.


It is similar in style to Ôsaka *Nidai Kunisuke's kobushi-gata* (fist shaped) or the rounded *gunome-midare* pattern from swordsmith *Kanefusa*.



Like snow-capped mountains, the *yakigashira* (head of the hamon) are blankets of *nioi-deki*.



*yakigashira*

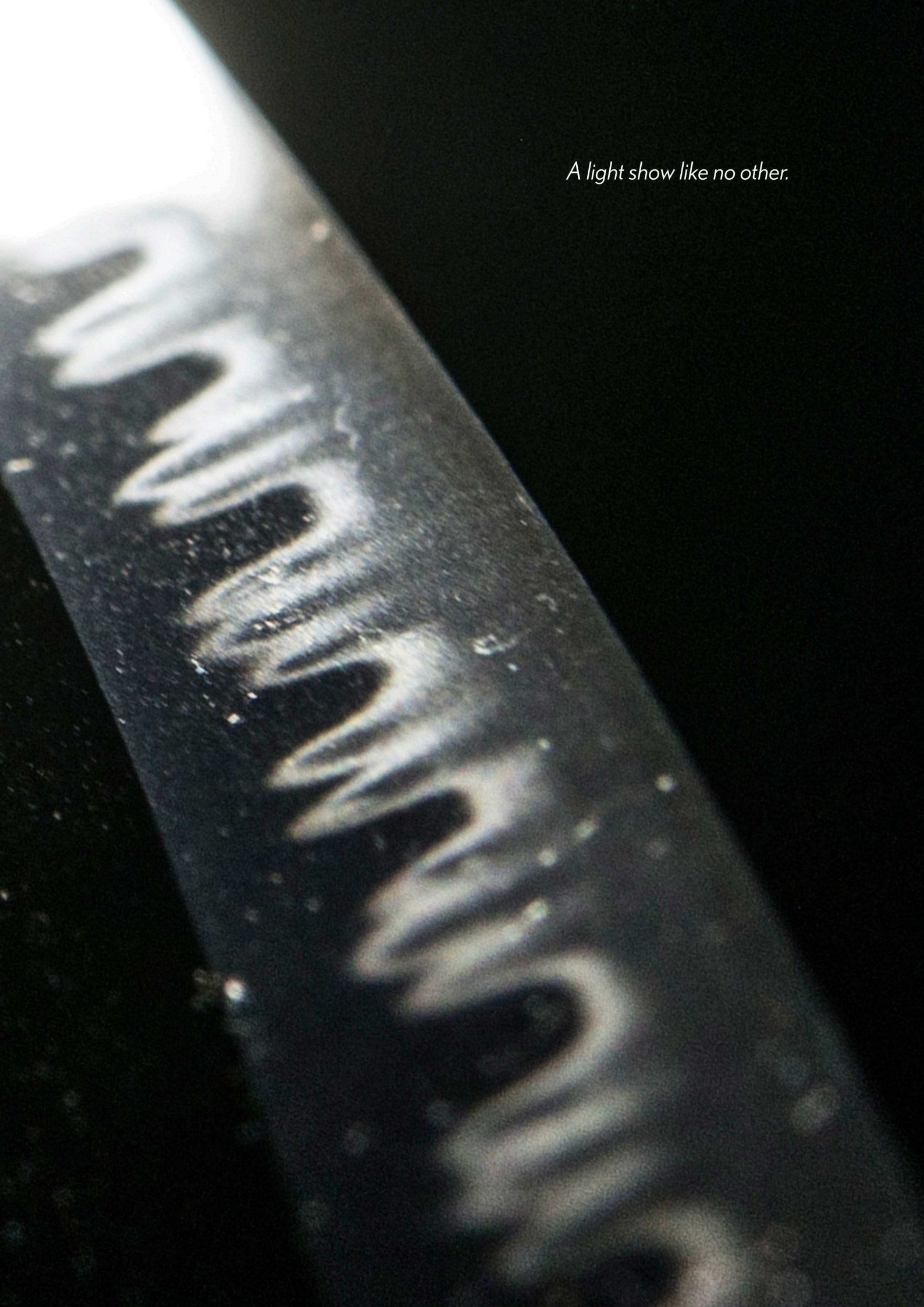
A close-up, vertical shot of a katana blade. The blade is dark and metallic, with a prominent, rhythmic, wavy pattern of light-colored metal (the hamon) running down its length. The background is black, making the blade stand out.

Although the *samurai* weren't exactly skiing in the late 1600s, one can't help but be inspired to hit the fresh powder when admiring this rhythmic *gunome-midare hamon* under the light.

A photograph of a skier in a red jacket and blue pants skiing down a snowy slope. The skier is leaving a series of elegant, wavy tracks in the snow. A red line originates from the text below and points towards the skier.

Ôsaka samurai skier

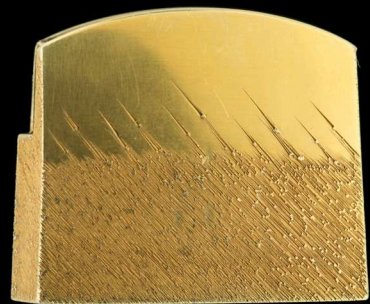
*A light show like no other.*





buffalo horn

*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



gold *yûjô-habaki*

*Kincha-Tsugaru-nuri saya  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(金茶津軽塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
lacquered in  
Tsugaru-nuri technique  
wrapped with gold-brown braids*

Crafted during the  
Late Edo Period



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity

Divine *tsugaru-nuri* lacquer work

[tsugarunuri.org](http://tsugarunuri.org)



*Tsugaru nuri* is the traditional lacquerware of the *Tsugaru* region in northern *Aomori* prefecture. *Tsugaru* has an extensive history dating back to the mid-Edo period during the reign of the fourth leader of *Hirosaki* clan, *Tsugaru Nobumasa* (1646~1710).

The crafting process of *Tsugaru nuri* involves **48 steps**. The base is made of wood, typically Japanese cypress. A sheet of cloth is applied to the wood base and covered with *urishi* (lacquer) base coat for durability. Coloured lacquer is applied over many coats and polished after every coat. The final step involves top quality Japanese lacquer and polishing, creating a durable and refined finish.



dragon's whiskers

Reinforced brass *kojiri* (end cap) of *amaryû* (rain dragon)

Liu Bei



This striking polished *shakudô tsuba* from the Late Edo period was crafted by the respected *Mogarashi school*. It depicts China's *Three Kingdoms* - a period of time that was marked by chaotic infighting between warlords in various parts of China from 220 to 280 AD.

*Liu Bei* (161-223) was a warlord in the late *Eastern Han* dynasty who founded the state of *Shu Han* in the Three Kingdoms period and became its first ruler.

The courageous energy captured in this tsuba is palpable. Note the intensity of the dragon at the base swelling within the waves and staring into the eyes of the warrior.



As these holes were not needed to pass through a *kôzuka* or *kôgai*, a previous owner (with definite financial means!) decided to fill them with *gold*.

It has a beautiful contrasting effect against the polished *shakudô*.

Liu Bei looks on!

gold rim



torii (gate)

tail of the dragon

surging waves

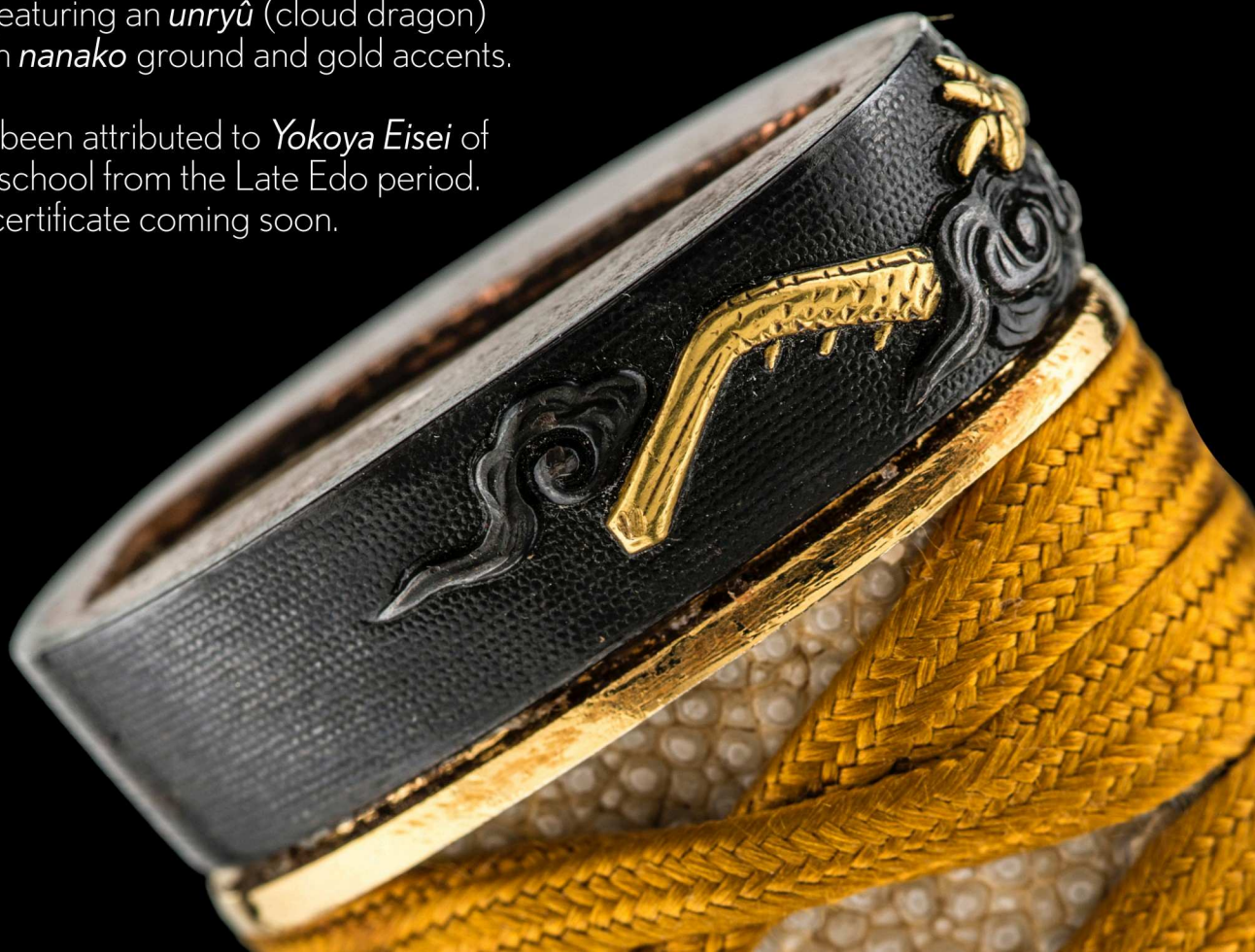


NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
certificate coming soon



*Fuchi-kashira* featuring an *unryû* (cloud dragon) in *shakudô* with *nanako* ground and gold accents.

This piece has been attributed to *Yokoya Eisei* of the *Yanagawa* school from the Late Edo period. NTHK-NPO certificate coming soon.





*unryû* looking skyward

*kashira* (pommel)



Extra large dragon *menuki* on *samekawa* (ray skin) and secured by gold-braided silk.





Vintage koshirae bag