



ITEM# UJKA436

## A MASATERU KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (TENNA ERA: AUGUST 1682)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Swordsmith:</b>     | <i>Echizen no Kami Hôjôji Masateru (Kyôto province)</i>   |
| <b>Dated:</b>          | <i>Tenna ninen hachigatsu kichijitsu</i>  |
| <b>Measurements:</b>   | <b>Length:</b> 70.7cm ( <i>ubu trimmed nakago-jiri</i> ) <b>Sori:</b> 0.9 cm <b>Moto-haba:</b> 2.76cm |
| <b>Jihada:</b>         | <i>Ko-itame-hada with ji-nie</i>  |
| <b>Hamon:</b>          | <i>Hira-suguha and notare with thick nioguchi in nie-deki</i>   |
| <b>Certificate #1:</b> | <b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> ( <i>Especially Worthy of Preservation</i> )                             |
| <b>Certificate #2:</b> | <b>NBTHK Hozon</b> ( <i>a koshirae Worthy of Preservation</i> )                                       |
| <b>Fujishiro rank:</b> | <b>Chûjô-saku</b> ( <i>ranked as an above average swordsmith</i> )                                    |
| <b>Authentication:</b> | <b>Sayagaki by Nozomi-san</b> ( <i>shodô artist</i> )   |
| <b>Included:</b>       | Shirasaya, Edo-koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description                                 |

**SOLD**

Swordsmith *Masateru* first studied under *shodai Hôjôji Masahiro* and then second generation swordsmith *Kinmichi* in *Kyôto*. This quick-drawing katana, signed with a chrysanthemum crest, has been dated to August 1682 during the second year of *Tenna* era, at the peak of *Masateru's* career. It holds a unique hamon that combines a straight *suguha* with a gentle wave of *notare* wrapped up a thick blanket of *nioguchi* that lights up like a streaming comet in the night sky. Its Edo-period *koshirae* has acquired NBTHK Hozon and features a brilliant theme of rain and cloud dragons, perfectly timed as 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. This is an ideal sword for a new *nihonto* collector.

^  
Saki-kasane: 4.8mm

Moto-kasane: 6.7mm

Omosa: 715g

Kissaki: 2.57cm  
Saki-haba: 1.66cm

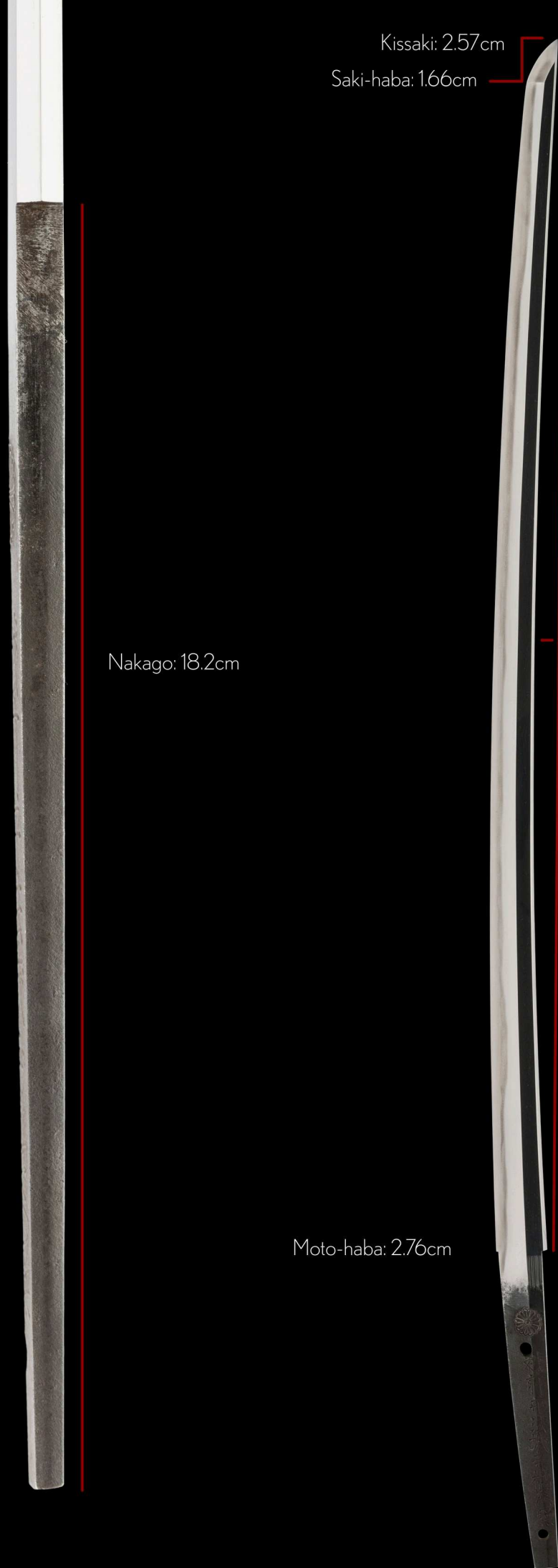
Nakago: 18.2cm

Moto-haba: 2.76cm

Nagasa: 70.7cm

Sori: 0.9cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Swordsmith *Masateru* first studied under *shodai Hôjôji Masahiro* founder of the *shintô* era Edo *Hôjôji* school in the early 1650s, originally founded by *Kunimitsu* in the *Hôjôji* district of *Tajima* province circa 1362.

After studying with Masahiro, Masateru travelled to *Kyôto* and furthered his studies under the second generation swordsmith *Kinmichi* of the famed *Mishina* school. Masateru was granted permission to carve a *kiku-mon* (imperial chrysanthemum crest) onto his nakago given the master-student relationship with Kinmichi.

This light and slender katana with shallow curvature was crafted to give its samurai owner the ability to draw the sword quickly from a standing position. The blade has also been dated to August 1682 during the second year of *Tenna* era, at the peak of Masateru's career. It displays a unique hamon that combines a straight *suguha* with a gentle wave of *notare* wrapped up a thick blanket of *nioguchi* that lights up like a streaming comet in the night sky. This is a relatively rare hamon that is impressive to the eye under the light.

Masateru is ranked as a *chûjô-saku* (an above average smith) and this sword has rightfully attained NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification. Its Edo-period koshirae has also acquired NBTHK Hozon certification and features a brilliant theme of rain and cloud dragons, perfectly timed as 2024 is the Year of the Dragon.

This is an ideal katana for a new collector, welcoming them into the world of *nihonto* (Japanese swords).



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

Clan name: *Tachibana*

Swordsmith: *Masateru* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang cut at bottom)

*sujikai-yasurime* (diagonal file marks)



(Chrysanthemum crest)

越 (Echi)

前 (zen, no)

守 (Kami)

法 (Hô)

城 (jô)

寺 (ji)

橘 (Tachibana)

正 (Masa)

照 (teru)

*Masateru* first studied under *Hôjôji Masahiro* but went later to Kyôto and studied there under the second generation *Kinmichi*.

Given the master-student relationship he was granted permission to carve a *kiku-mon* (chrysanthemum) onto his tangs.



This additional hole at the bottom suggests that it went through some cutting tests in the past and an extra peg hole was made for reinforcement.

Also, the *kiri* (straight) *nakago-jiri* would have originally been shaped to a round *kurijiri*. It was likely cut at some point to fit a particular *tsuka* (hilt).

*Tenna ninen hachigatsu kichijitsu*

This katana was dated by Masateru to a lucky day in the eighth month in the second year of Tenna era (February 1862).

(Ten) 天  
(na) 和  
(ni) 二  
(nen) 年  
(hachi) 八  
(gatsu) 月  
(kichi) 吉  
(jitsu) 日



特保  
03202109

No. 1016568



鑑定書

一 刀 銘

(菊紋)越前守法城寺橘正照  
天和二年八月吉日

長二又三寸三分

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

令和三年十二月三日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



秋田県 教育委員会  
第 7622 号  
昭和34年6月22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 3rd year of Reiwa (2021), December 3rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

(Kikumon) Echizen no Kami Hôjôji Tachibana Masateru  
Tenna ninen hachigatsu kichijitsu

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 3-bu (70.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



越前守法城寺橋正照

越前守法城寺橋正照  
*Echizen no Kami Hôjôji Tachibana Masateru*  
Echizen no Kami Hôjôji Tachibana Masateru

天和二年八月吉日

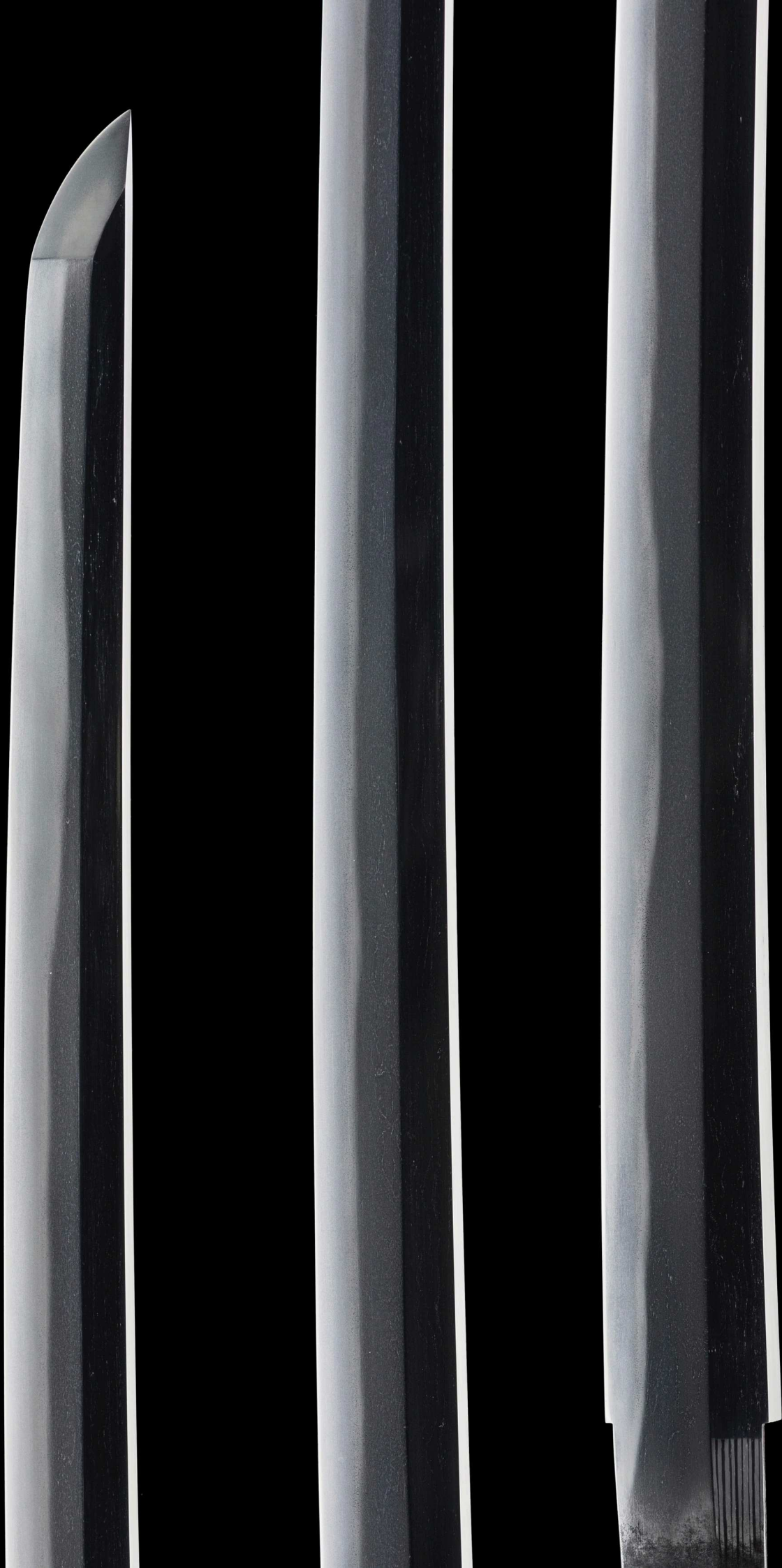
天和二年八月吉日  
*Ten'na ninen hachigatsu kichijitsu*  
On a lucky day in the eighth month in the second year of  
Ten'na era (August 1682)

刃長貳尺參寸三分有之

刃長貳尺參寸三分有之  
*Hachô 2-shaku 3-sun 3-bu kore ari*  
Blade length 70.7 cm

令和六甲辰年  
弥生吉日誌之


令和六甲辰年弥生吉日誌之  
*Reiwa roku kinoa-tatsudoshi Yayoi kichijitsu kore o shirusu*  
Written on a lucky day in the third month in the sixth year of  
Reiwa era during the Year of the Dragon (March 2024).





*Hiro-suguha* (wide hamon) that gently waves in the form of *notare* in *nie-deki*.





A thick *nioguchi* streams through the blade like a comet in the night sky.



A crisp, consistent hamon.  
This is quality sword-making.



*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

越前守法城寺橋正照

天和二年八月吉日

刃長貳尺參寸三分有之

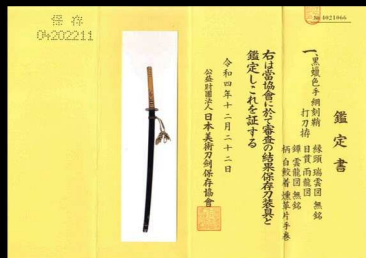
今和六甲辰年  
弥生吉日誌之



gold *niju habaki* with  
kiri file marks

*Kuro-roiro  
tazuna-kizami saya  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(黒蠟色手綱刻鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
with slantingly carved saya  
lacquered in glossy black*



*NBTHK Hozon  
Certificate of Authenticity*

保存  
04202211

№ 4021066



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

令和四年十二月二十二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



鑑定書

一、黒蠟色手綱刻鞘  
打刀拵  
縁頭瑞雲図 無銘  
目貫雨龍図  
鐔雲龍図 無銘  
柄白絞着燻革片手巻

## NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 4th year of Reiwa (2022), December 22nd

One,

*Uchigatana-koshirae with slantingly carved saya  
lacquered in glossy black*

*Fuchigashira: Auspicious cloud motif, unsigned*

*Menuki: Rain dragon motif*

*Tsuba: Cloud dragon motif, unsigned*

*Tsuka: White same wrapped in katatemaki style with smoked leather*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



An iron tsuba with a  
cloud dragon design



2024 is the Year of the Dragon.  
Be the dragon. Get fierce.





Rain dragon *menuki* cleverly wrapped on smoked leather.





criss cross pattern

*Fuchi-kashira*  
(*zuiun*, happy omen)

Clouds are associated positively in Japanese culture as they produce rain which moistens all things, bringing good fortune to people.

(England must have lots of good fortune then. :)



武蔵國  
正照  
*Musashi no Kuni*  
*Masateru*  
Masateru from Musashi province

Koshirae bag

Meet *Nozomi-san*, *sayagaki shodô* artist!

Inside this catalogue you will notice that many of the *shirasaya* have *sayagaki* by our new *shodô* (calligraphy artist) Nozomi-san. Her artwork is splendid and most definitely spruces up the *shirasaya*. If you are interested in this *sayagaki* service reach out to UJ by email. We can also produce a beautiful sword box with *hakogaki* as well.

Of course, we still offer *sayagaki* services with *Tanobe-sensei*, but because of his age and time required, we submit primarily *Jûyô* and *Tokubetsu Jûyô* swords to him.



Nozomi-san & UJ's Ayumu Ogusu appeared together on the YouTube channel called *Shigoto Rich!*

