



ITEM# UJKA444

A KANABÔ MASATSUGU KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD (EIROKU ERA: 1558~1570)

Swordsmith:	<i>Kanabô Masatsugu (Yamato province)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 74.7cm (<i>ubu</i>) Curvature: 1.6cm Moto-haba: 3.29cm Weight: 800g
Jihada:	<i>Masame-hada with mokume-hada with ji-nie and chikei</i>
Hamon:	<i>Bright mixture of ko-midare, ko-chôji, togari-ba with sunagashi and kinsuji</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Hozon (Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #2-4:	NTHK-NPO Kanteishô (koshirae, fukuro and tsuba certified as Authentic)
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Nozomi-san (shodô artist)
Included:	<i>Shirasaya, Edo-koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description</i>

SOLD

The *Kanabô* school began producing swords in the *Daiei* era (1521~1528) with their origins stemming from the *Yamato Sue-Tegai* school. They enjoyed a reputation for being expert makers of spears, including the *jumonji-yari*. This long, powerful katana has been attributed to *Kanabô Masatsugu* and shows exactly why *Kanabô* swords were prized among samurai warriors as dependable battle-tested blades. Its hefty and impressive *nagasa* of 74.7cm is dominated with a *ô-kissaki* that is just shy of 10cm (4 inches) in length. Wonderful straight-grain *masame-hada* with wood-grain pools of *mokume-hada* and loads of *sunagashi* fill this dynamic blade. The hamon is a wild mix of *Sue-Bizen* and *Mino* traditions with a number of spiking *togari-ba* (peaks). A handsome set of *koshirae* from the late Edo period further compliments the sword with an elegant *sukashi tsuba* with flying geese in the rain, a charming *shakudô* wave dragon *fuchi-kashira* and oversized *menuki* with *shisa* lions and peonies. This is a sword that will stand tall in anyone's *nihonto* collection.



Saki-kasane: 2.9mm

Moto-kasane: 5.00mm

Omosa: 800g

Kissaki: 9.93cm

Saki-haba: 2.88cm

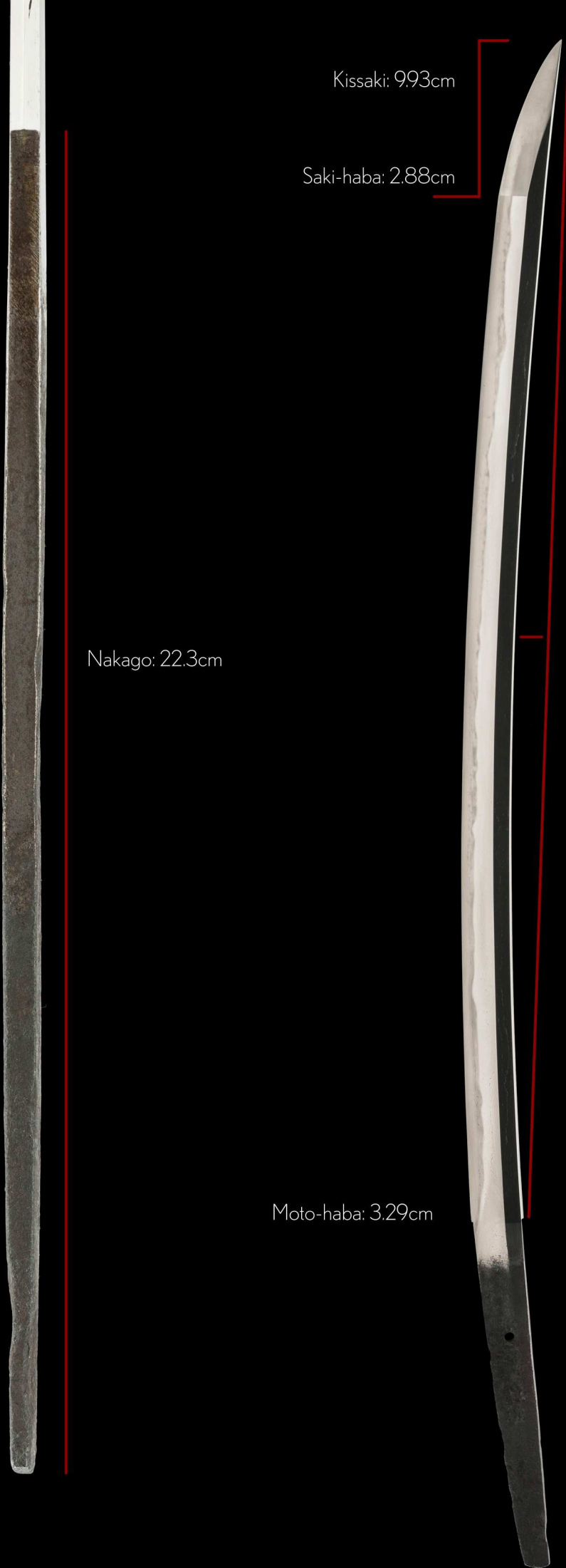
Nakago: 22.3cm

Moto-haba: 3.29cm

Nagasa: 74.7cm

Sori: 1.60cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



The *Kanabô* school is said to have begun producing swords in the *Daiei* era (1521~1528) and its smiths seem to have used "*Kanabô*" as their family name. The origins of the school point to *Shinya Masanaga* and *Fujiwara Masanaga* of the Yamato *Sue-Tegai* school. Leading smiths of the Kanabo school included *Masashige*, *Masasada*, *Masakiyo* and *Masatsugu*. The Kanabô smiths had a reputation for being expert makers of spears, including the *jumonji-yari*.


This big boy of a katana is a textbook example of why Kanabô swords enjoyed a reputation with samurai warriors as dependable battle-tested blades. A shape that is strong and stout, shallow in curvature, wonderfully sharp, a wide *mihaba* (width), thick *kasane*, and a massive *ô-kissaki* that means business.

The long and powerful katana has been attributed to Masatsugu that worked in the *Eiroku* era (1558~1570). Its impressive *nagasa* of 74.7cm is dominated with a *ô-kissaki* that is just shy of 10cm (4 inches) in length. Wonderful straight-grain *masame-hada* with *nagare-hada* and loads of *sunagashi* fill the blade. The *hamon* is a mix of styles, which is typical of Kanabô swords, but closest to Sue-Bizen and Mino in flavour with a number of spiking *togariba* (peaks) in the temper line.

As the sword is unsigned and from the late Muromachi period, it can only ever be granted NBTHK Hozon. However, make no mistake, this hefty well-aged *ubunakago* katana has plenty of character and pizzazz of any Tokubetsu Hozon level sword.

This sword comes with a handsome set of koshirae from the late Edo period with a fine *sukashi tsuba* featuring flying geese in the rain, a charming *shakudô* wave dragon *fuchi-kashira* and oversized *menuki* depicting *shisa* lions and peonies. This is a very cool katana that will stand proudly in any *nihonto* collection.



The image shows two vertical views of a sword blade, likely a nakago, against a black background. The blade is dark, heavily rusted, and has a hole near the base. The top part of the blade is lighter and appears to be wrapped in paper or fabric. The text is centered between the two views.

By the look and condition of this nakago, one might conclude that it is a very old sword, potentially from the mid-1300s *Nanbokuchō* period. However, the NBTHK has deemed it from the 1500s *Kanabo* school from the late Muromachi period, and the blade itself certainly showcases all such attributes. Still this nakago sure does look older!

Although not signed, there may have been a signature at some point that has been rusted away. This is certainly an *ubu-nakago* sword given the one hole and the overall long length of the sword.

All told, this nakago shows age and character, it's great to see.

02202009

No 3025058



鑑定書

一刀無銘（金房政次）

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

令和二年十一月九日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



長野県 教育委員会
第 92022 号
令和2年7月8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 2nd year of Reiwa (2020), November 9th

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Kanabô Masatsugu

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 4-sun 7-bu jaku (74.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



無銘
Mumei
Unsigned

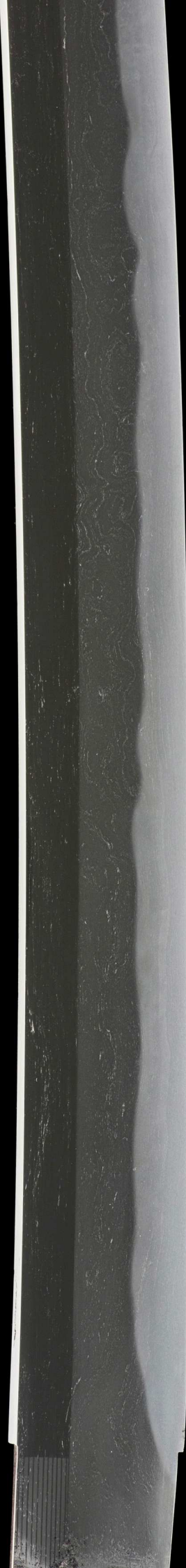
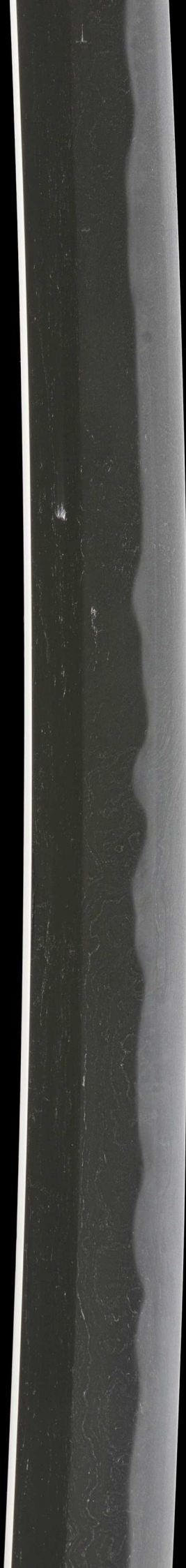
金房政次
Kanabô Masatsugu
Kanabô Masatsugu

時代永禄頃
Jidai Eiroku goro
Crafted circa Eiroku period (1558~1570)

刃長貳尺四寸七分弱有之
Hachô 2-shaku 4-sun 7-bu jaku kore ari
Blade length 74.7 cm

令和六甲辰年卯月吉日誌之
Reiwa roku kinoe-tatsudoshi Uzuki kichijitsu kore o shirusu
Written on a lucky day in the fourth month in the sixth year of
Reiwa era during the Year of the Dragon (April 2024).





Oh-kissaki!



9.93cm

Great view of the straight grain *masame-hada* with the *ko-chôji* like hamon that is similar to Sue-Bizen works of the late Muromachi period.



masame-hada

The Mino-tradition is synonymous with *togari-ba*, where the hamon comes to points or peaks. We certainly see such an influence in this blade.

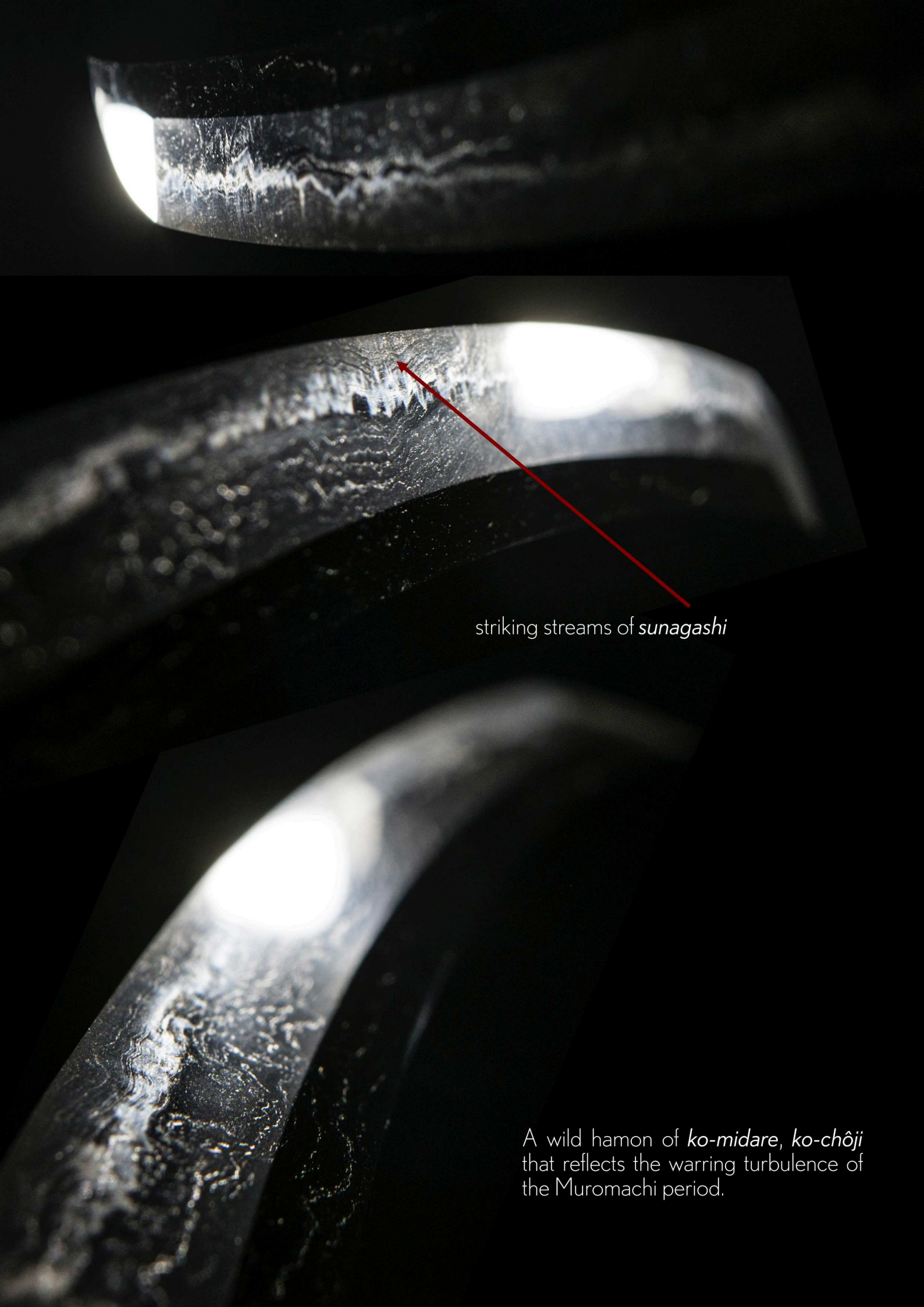
togari-ba





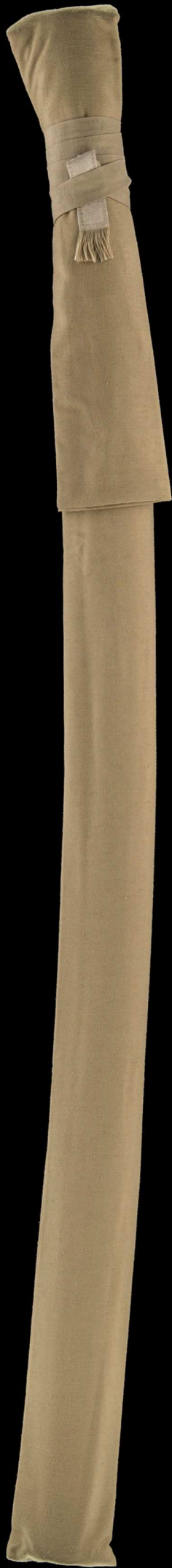
The light show continues.

Rounded *mokume-hada*
resembling rings of a tree.



striking streams of *sunagashi*

A wild hamon of *ko-midare*, *ko-chôji* that reflects the warring turbulence of the Muromachi period.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

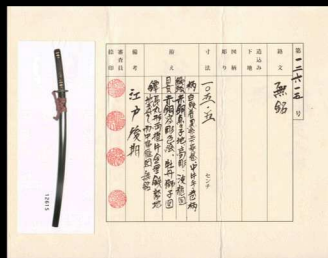
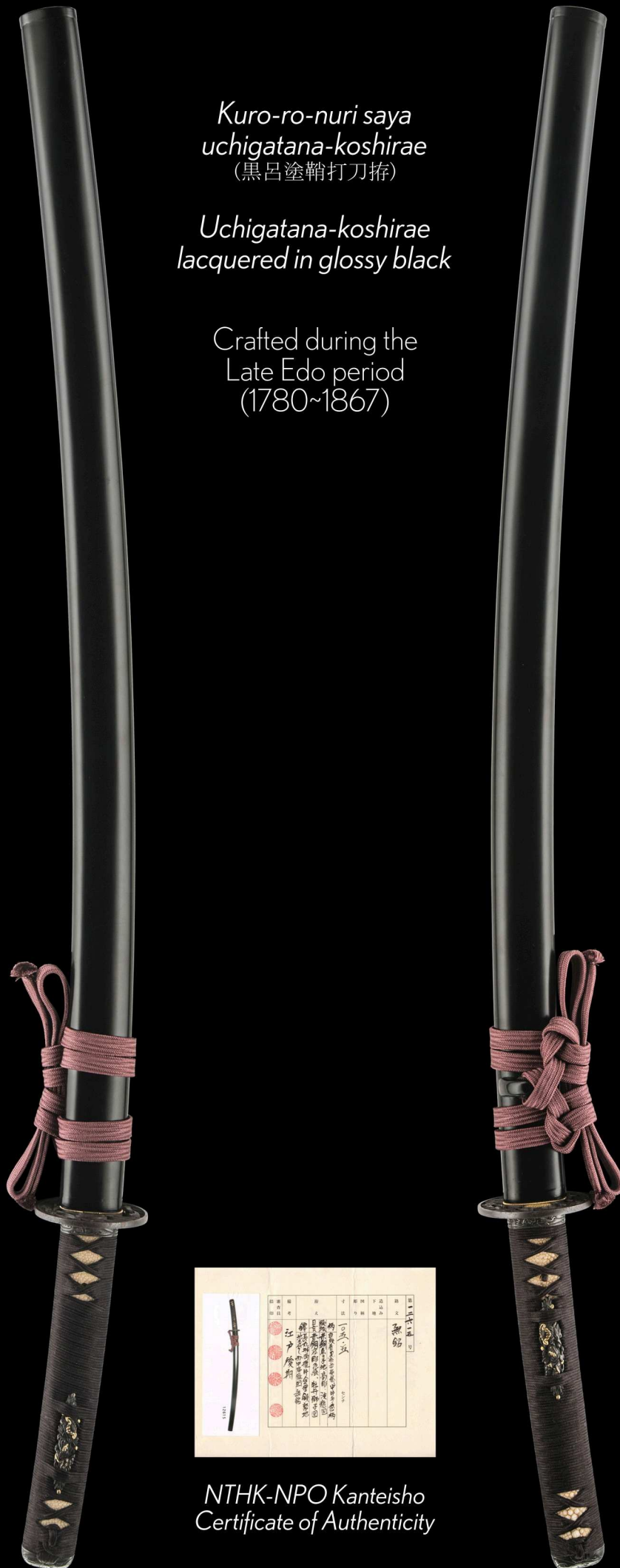


gold *habaki* with
diagonal file marks

*Kuro-ro-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒呂塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



Here is a splendid polished iron *sukashi tsuba* that depicts a flock of geese flying in the rain. This artwork has been attributed to *Sunagawa Masachika* from *Edo* province. One *hitsu-ana* (hole) is filled in gold with an exquisite floral design that adds an extra touch of class.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Late Edo period: 1853~1868



Keep flying.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho



Fuchi-kashira
attributed to
Bizen Shôami school

A superb *shakudô fuchi-kashira* with
a dragon swimming in waves motif.

Middle Edo period
(1700-1780)



The *menuki* showcases protective *shishi* lions enveloped with lovely peonies. The peony symbolizes wealth, prosperity, and honour and the shisa lion is seen as a spiritual guardian. The oversized *menuki* have been wrapped in a *katate-maki* so they can be fully appreciated.





Koshirae bag