

ITEM# UJKA450

A NORISHIGE KATANA

UNSIGNED, CHÛ-KOTÔ KAMAKURA PERIOD (SHÔWA ERA: 1312~1317)

Swordsmith: *Etchû Norishige (1st gen.)*
Measurements: **Length:** 61.5cm (*ô-suriage*) **Sori:** 1.4cm **Moto-haba:** 2.81cm **Weight:** 585g
Jihada: *Stand-out itame with mokume and nagare forming matsukawa-hada, darkish steel*
Hamon: *Bright suguha mixed with gunome, ko-notare, ashi, kinsuji and sunagashi*
Boshi: *Nie-laden ko-maru kaeri with plenty of hakikake*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*sword Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificates #2: **NTHK-NPO Yûshûsaku** (*as sword designated as Masterwork*)
Fujishiro rank: **Saijô-saku** (*ranked as a grandmaster swordsmith*)
Authentication: **Sayagaki by Tanobe-sensei** (*Tanobe Michihiro*)
Included: Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, printed description

SOLD

It gives us great pleasure to introduce a sword by one Japan's finest swordsmiths. *Norishige* was a fellow student of *Masamune* under *Shintôgo Kunimitsu*. Among the early great *Sôshû* masters, *Norishige's* workmanship is closest to that of the *Masamune*. The major difference is that the *kitae* (grain) produced by *Norishige* stands out more visibly – resulting in his iconic *matsukawa-hada* - a spiraled grain pattern resembling the bark of old pine trees. This is a relatively short katana that feels agile in hand, and instantly transports you back some seven hundred years with an elegant *jihada* that will absolutely capture your heart. This is what collecting *nihontô* is all about. Claim the sword in *shirasaya* or let's build a top-class custom *koshirae* with the finest craftsmen in Japan.



Saki-kasane: 3.0mm
Moto-kasane: 4.8mm

Kissaki: 2.49cm
Saki-haba: 1.78cm

Nagasa: 61.5cm

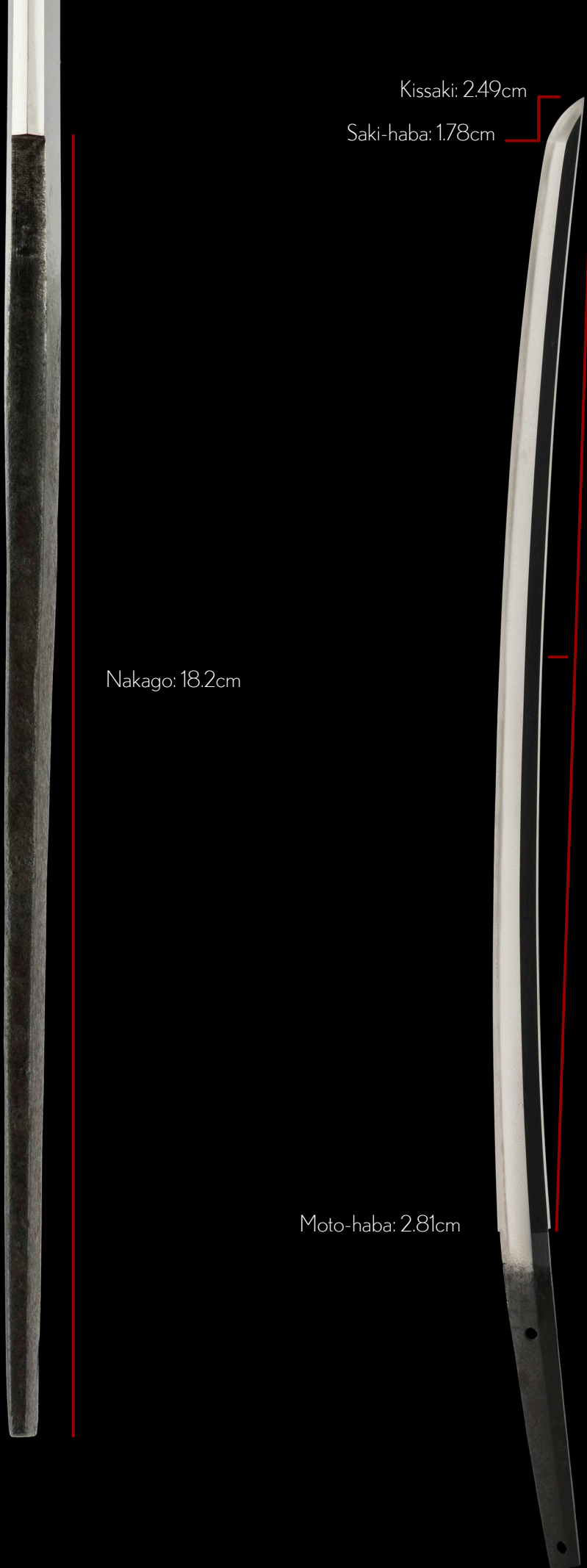
Nakago: 18.2cm

Sori: 1.4cm

Omosa: 585g

Moto-haba: 2.81cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



According to the *Kokon Mei Zukushi* (古今銘尽) and other Edo period sword publications, grandmaster swordsmith *Norishige* was one of the **Ten Students of Masamune** but judging from the shapes of his *tachi* and *tantô* and dated signatures from the *Shôwa* era (正和, 1312~317) and *Gen'ô* era (元応, 1319-1321), it appears that he was a fellow student of Masamune under *Shintôgo Kunimitsu* (新藤五 国光) as Muromachi period sword texts suggest.

Norishige's workmanship stands among the early great *Sôshû* masters, with a style closest to that of the the great *Masamune*. However, his blades are generally characterized by a higher *nie* content , and his *jihada* (steel grain pattern) is notably more prominent than Masamune's work.

What truly distinguishes Norishige's craftsmanship is the presence of thick and prominent *chikei* (bright dark lines in the steel) and his unique *jihada*, specifically known as "*matsukawa-hada*" (pine bark pattern). This distinctive patterning creates a visual texture reminiscent of pine bark, setting his work apart from other master smiths of the period.

Tanobe-sensei reviewed this katana and in his *sayagaki* he summarized the sword's characteristics as:

"...we can overall truly see a reference to the Ko-Hôki style, hence I am in agreement with said period attribution, and this masterwork has an abundance of classical features."

See the full sayagaki translation later in this description.

This katana represents an opportunity to own and cherish a sword from one of the most influential swordsmiths in the *nihontô* world. Enjoy in shirasaya, or let's build a memorable custom koshirae together that your family will cherish for generations to come.

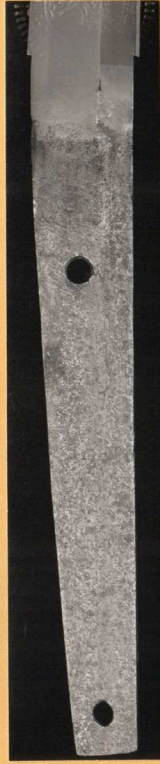




o-suriage nakago

特 保
27201501

№ 1003494



鑑定書

一刀 無銘 伝(則重)

長二尺〇三分

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

平成二十七年三月二十六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



栃木 教育委員会
第 30861号
昭和46年11月18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 27th year of Heisei (2015), March 26th

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Den Norishige

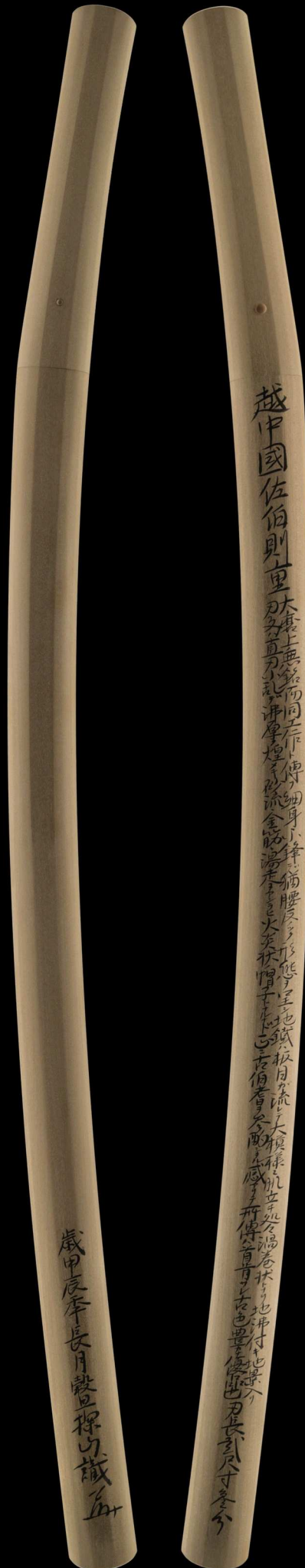
Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 0-sun 3-bu (61.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

優秀刀



日本刀剣保存会



越中國佐伯則重
Etchû no Kuni Saeki Norishige
 Saeki Norishige from Etchû Province

大磨無銘而同工作ト傳フ細身・小鋒デ猶腰反ノツク形
 態ヲ呈シ地鐵ハ板目ガ流レテ大模様ニ肌肌立チ処々
 渦卷状トナリ地沸付キ地景入り刃文ハ直刃小乱デ沸
 厚ク煌メキ砂流・金筋・湯走ヲアシラヒ火炎状ノ帽子ト
 ナルナド正ニ古伯耆ヲ參酌シタル感アリテ所傳ハ首肯
 サレ古色豊カナ優品也

Ô-suriage mumei shikôshite dôkô-saku to tsutau. Hosomi, ko-kissaki de nao koshizori no tsuku keitai o teishi jigane wa itame ga nagarete ô-moyô ni hadadachi tokorodokoro uzumaki-jô to nari ji-nie tsuki chikei hari hamon wa suguha ko-midare de nie atsuku kirameki sunagashi, kinsuji, yubashiri o ashirai kaen-jô no bôshi to naru nado masa ni Ko-Hôki o sanshaku-shitaru kan arite shoden wa shikô-sare koshoku yutaka na yûhin nari.

This blade is ô-suriage mumei, but was handed down as a work of Norishige. It has a slender mihaba, a ko-kissaki, and a koshizori, and displays a jigane in a standing-out and large-structured itame that tends to uzumaki in places and that features ji-nie and chikei. The hamon is a suguha komidare with plenty of sparkling nie that displays sunagashi, kinsuji, and yubashiri, and with the kaen-style bôshi, we can overall truly see a reference to the Ko-Hôki style, hence I am in agreement with said period attribution, and this masterwork has an abundance of classical features.

刃長貳尺寸參分
 Hachô ni-shaku sun san-bu
 Blade length ~ 61.5 cm

歳甲辰季長月穀旦探山識「花押」
 Toki ni kinoe tatsudoshi nagazuki kokutan Tanzan shirusu + kaô

Written by Tanzan [Tanobe Michihiro] on a lucky day in September in the year of the dragon of this era (2024) + monogram.

歳甲辰季長月穀旦探山識

越中國佐伯則重
 大磨無銘而同工作ト傳フ細身・小鋒デ猶腰反ノツク形
 態ヲ呈シ地鐵ハ板目ガ流レテ大模様ニ肌肌立チ処々
 渦卷状トナリ地沸付キ地景入り刃文ハ直刃小乱デ沸
 厚ク煌メキ砂流・金筋・湯走ヲアシラヒ火炎状ノ帽子ト
 ナルナド正ニ古伯耆ヲ參酌シタル感アリテ所傳ハ首肯
 サレ古色豊カナ優品也







matsukawa-hada (pine bark pattern)





A gorgeous *hakikake* (brushed) *boshi* with a short *kaeri* (turn back).



sparkling *nie*.



The *nie* content in *Norishige's* work is generally as being higher than that of the great *Masamune* (pictured above).



A delightful *suguha* (straight) *hamon* mixed with *ko-midare* (small waves).

Cherish the channels of *chikei* and *kinsuji*.



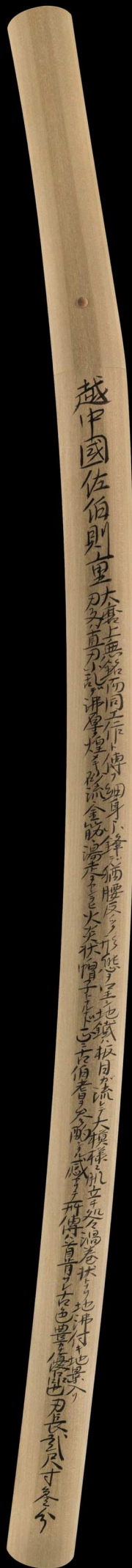
The image shows two blades of a Japanese sword, likely a katana, with a dark, textured surface. The blades are curved and positioned diagonally. The lighting highlights the intricate patterns of the blade's surface, which are characteristic of the chikei and kinsuji techniques. The background is dark, making the blades stand out.

chikei

kinsuji



The beauty that is *Norishige*.



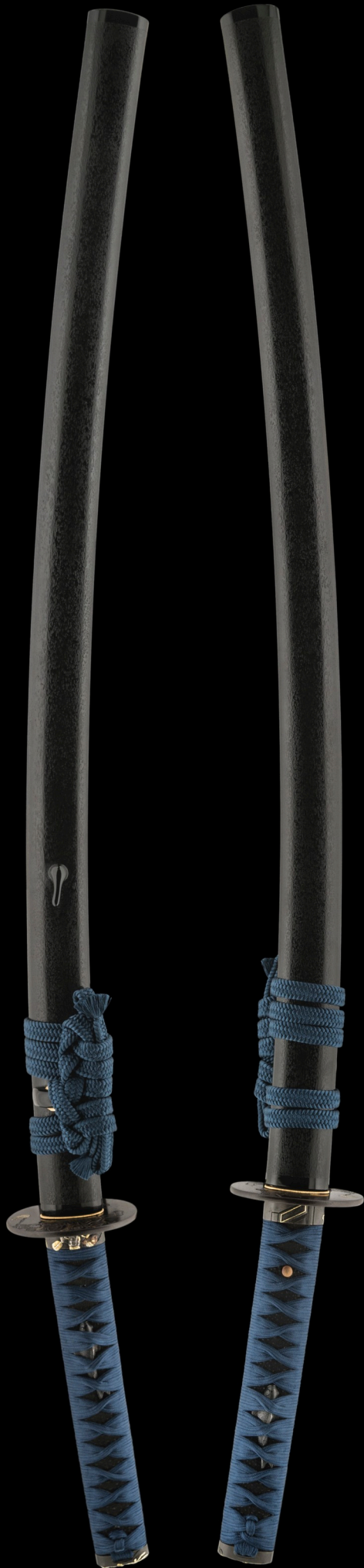
Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold ni-ju habaki
with crisp file marks

If I can turn back time...





An Amata Kunitsugu Katana

A recently completed custom *koshirae* featuring a *Myôchin Muneyuki tsuba*, a *Shôunsai fuchi-kashira* and *koi menuki*.

