



ITEM# UJKA465

## A YOSHIKADO KATANA

SIGNED, SHINTÔ EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661~1671)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Noshû Seki Zenryô-ke Echizen no Kami Yoshikado (1st gen.)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 65.8cm ( <i>ubu</i> ) <b>Sori:</b> 1.2cm <b>Moto-haba:</b> 3.0cm <b>Weight:</b> 680g
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Well-forged itame-hada with sparkling ji-nie, chikei</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Beautiful nie-deki mix of ô-midare, hako-midare, chôji, togariba, notare, ashi</i>
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> ( <i>sword Especially Worthy of Preservation</i> )
<b>Fujishiro rank:</b>	<b>Jô-saku</b> ( <i>ranked as superior swordsmith</i> )
<b>Sharpness:</b>	<b>Wazamonô</b> ( <i>rated as a maker of sharp swords</i> )
<b>Authentication:</b>	<b>Sayagaki by Nozomi-san</b> ( <i>shodô artist</i> )
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, printed description

**SOLD**

*Shodai Yoshikado* was a prominent *shintô* swordsmith who descended from the lineage of *Zenjô Kaneyoshi*. Yoshikado's career advanced significantly when in 1672 he became an official swordsmith of the *Mito* domain led by *Tokugawa Mitsukuni*, receiving a stipend supporting seven people, prompting his relocation to *Mito's Daimachi* district. This brilliant and highly energetic katana is a prime example from the later years of Yoshikado's storied career. The blade's vibrant *hamon* in *nie-deki* is an *ô-midare* with *notare* elements, even *hako-midare* that is reminiscent of the famed *Kanewaka* school. This is a swordsman's sword, just the right length to manoeuvre with samurai fluidity. A custom *koshirae* is an option for this katana, however, a blade of this quality can certainly suffice in *shirasaya* only – enjoy and study it under the *nihontô* light for hours on end.



Saki-kasane: 4.9mm

Moto-kasane: 6.4mm

Omosa: 680g

Kissaki: 3.01cm

Saki-haba: 1.97cm

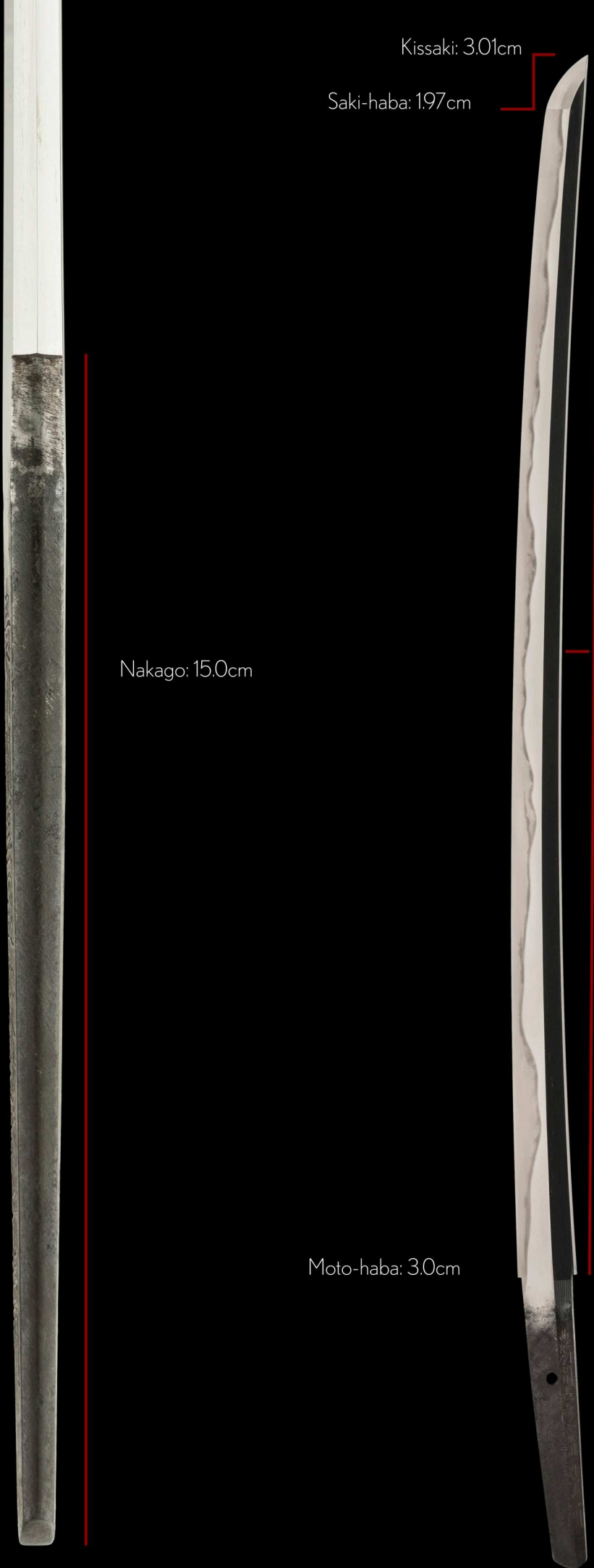
Nakago: 15.0cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 65.8cm

Sori: 1.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Kawamura Ichirô-zaemon* in *Hitachi* province, first generation *Yoshikado* was a prominent swordsmith who began his career during the *Jôô* era (1652-1655). He originated from *Mino* and descended from the lineage of *Zenjô Kaneyoshi*. He began his apprenticeship around 1636 and was working in Edo by 1654, as demonstrated by a blade signature noting "more than 19 years of training."

Yoshikado's career advanced significantly when in 1672 he became an official swordsmith of the *Mito* domain led by *Tokugawa Mitsukuni*, receiving a stipend supporting seven people, which prompted his relocation to Mito's *Daimachi* district. His younger brother, also named *Yoshikado* (later known as *Bokuden*), was also employed by the Mito fief. While the exact date when he received the honorary title "*Echizen no Kami*" remains unknown, evidence suggests he held this title as early as 1625. Yoshikado died in the fourth year of *Jôkyô* era (1687).

This brilliant and highly energetic katana is a prime example from the later years of Yoshikado's storied career. The blade's vibrant *hamon* in *nie-deki* is an *ô-midare* with *notare* elements, even *hako-midare* in parts that is reminiscent of the famed *Kanewaka* school. This is a swordsman's sword, not too long, not too short, just right to manoeuvre with samurai fluidity. The sword has been further polished to an exceptionally keen edge as Yoshikado is renowned as a *wazamono* (sharp sword maker). His swords require careful handling due to their remarkable cutting ability.

A custom *koshirae* is an option as this sword is in *shirasaya* only, and we can assist you every step of the way. However, a blade of this quality can easily be enjoyed as it is without *koshirae*.



*Tokugawa Mitsukuni*  
In office 1661~1690





Location: *Seki in Mino province* (resident of Seki city)

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

Family name: *Zenryô*

Swordsmith: *Yoshikado* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

*takanoha-yasurime* (mountain-shape file marks)

濃 (Nô)

州 (shû)

関 (Seki)

善 (Zen)

良 (ryô)

家 (ke)

越 (Echi)

前 (zen, no)

守 (Kami)

吉 (Yoshi)

門 (kado)

A gorgeous signature - crisp and clean.



Only shodai signed with *Zenryô-ke* (善良家), a proud descendant of the Zenryô family that can be traced back some thirteen generations to *Zenjô Kaneyoshi* who worked during the *Ôei* era (1394~1428).

(*ura*, reverse)



*kurijiri*  
(chestnut shaped *nakagojiri* (butt end))

特選  
12200003

№ 145451



鑑定書

長二尺一寸七分強

一 刀 銘 濃州関善良家越前守吉門

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

平成十二年五月十一日

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 12th year of Heisei (2000), May 11th

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Nôshû Seki Zenryô-ke Echizen no Kami Yoshikado*

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 1-sun 7-bu kyô (65.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



濃州関善良家越前守吉門

*Nôshû Seki Zenryô-ke Echizen no Kami Yoshikado*

Echizen no Kami Yoshikado of the Zenryô family

from Seki in Noshû (Mino) province

時代承應頃

時代承應頃

*Jidai Jôô goro*

Around Jôô period (1652~1655)

刃長貳尺壹寸七分強有之

刃長貳尺壹寸七分強有之

*Hachô 2-shaku 1-sun 7-bu kyô kore ari*

Blade length 65.8 cm

令和七乙巳年卯月吉日誌之

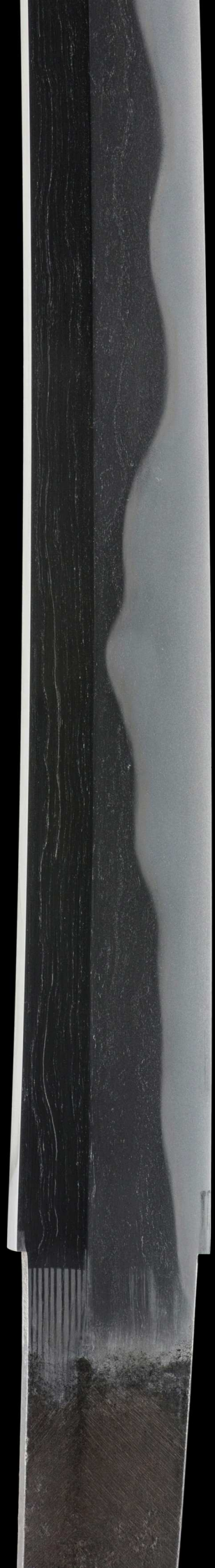
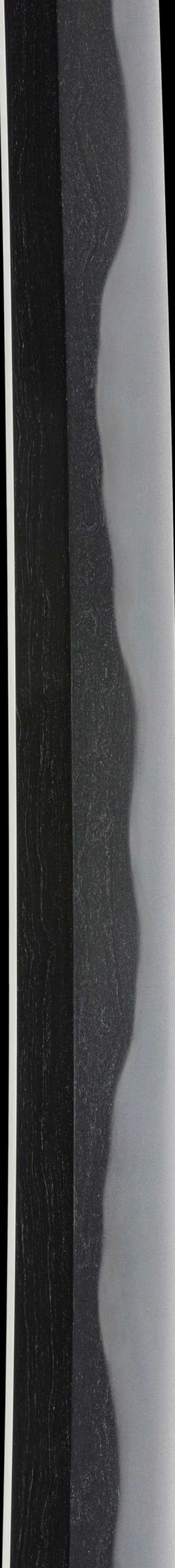
令和七乙巳年卯月吉日誌之

*Reiwa nana kinoto-midoshi Uzuki kichijitsu kore o shirusu*

Written on a lucky day in the fourth month in the seventh year

of Reiwa era during the Year of the Snake (April 2025)





An eclectic *notare* mixed with *midare* fires forward.



The *yakidashi* (start of the *hamon*) forms a mountain top that reminds one of *Fuji-san*, the great *Mount Fuji*.





Beautiful *chôji* formations that speak to Yoshikado's earlier Bizen works.

*togari* (pointed peak)  
Yoshikado flexing his inner *Mino-den*.

Well-forged dark swirls of *chikei*



A beautiful wavy *masame-hada*  
(straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*.

High-contrast view of the impressive channels of *chikei*.



An elegant *notare hamon* in *nie-deki*  
(note the visible stream of *nie* crystals)



This fascinating katana pays an honorary tribute to the *Kaga*-based *Kanewaka* family in the valleys of *hako-midare*.

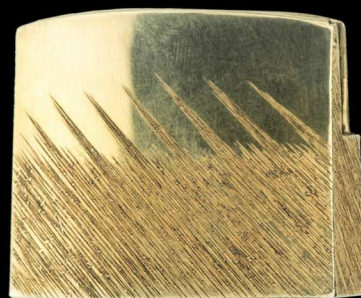


*hako-midare* (square-shaped)

*ashi* (legs)



*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



gold-wrapped *habaki*  
with rainfall file marks



sharp light of the moon





## Flying to Japan?

If you are travelling to Tokyo and are serious about acquiring an authentic Japanese sword, be sure to book a **private meeting** with us in advance.

Many swords from Unique Japan are sold privately every year to clients around the world. Contact [service@uniquejapan.com](mailto:service@uniquejapan.com) where we'll discuss the type of sword, age and other qualities you are seeking along with budget parameters.

Meetings are held at our studio near **JR Meguro station** - only minutes away from all major hotels in downtown Tokyo.