



ITEM# UJTA059

A FUYUHIRO TANTÔ

SIGNED, SHINTÔ PERIOD (KEICHÔ ERA: 1596~1615)

Swordsmith: *Wakasa no Daijô Fuyuhiro (godai, 5th gen.)*
Measurements: **Length:** 29.8cm (*ubu*) **Curvature:** 0.2cm **Moto-haba:** 2.82cm **Weight:** 265g
Jihada: *Ko-itame and mokume-hada with ji-nie and chikei*
Hamon: *Bright ko-gunome midare with ko-ashi and pointed Jizo-like bôshi*
Certificate #1-2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*sword & koshirae Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Fujishiro rank: **Chûjô-saku** (*ranked as an above average swordsmith*)
Included: *Shirasaya, Edo-koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description*

SOLD

This rare and splendid tantô was crafted by 5th generation *Fuyuhiro* who worked during the *Momoyama Keichô* period, circa 1596~1615 in *Wakasa* province. Born *Takahashi Gorôzaemon*, *Fuyuhiro* was the son of *Sôshû Hirotsugu* and although being granted the honorary title *Wakasa no Kami* in 1598, he respectfully took the more modest rank of *Wakasa no Daijô* because *Kyôgoku Takatsugu*, lord of the *Obama* fief, also bore the title of *Wakasa no Kami*. This long and wide tantô in *hirazukuri* shape carries a bright, shining *ko-gunome hamon* and an assertive *funagata nakago* that pays respect to its *Sôshû* heritage. A spectacular set of *koshirae* focused around a *fuchi-kashira* crafted by master artisan *Miyata Nobukiyo* gloriously depicting tigers and leopards houses the blade. The *saya* is beautifully lacquered showcasing the glory and resilience of bamboo rustling in the wind. Both the sword and *koshirae* have been awarded NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification.



Moto-kasane: 1.7mm

Omosa: 265g

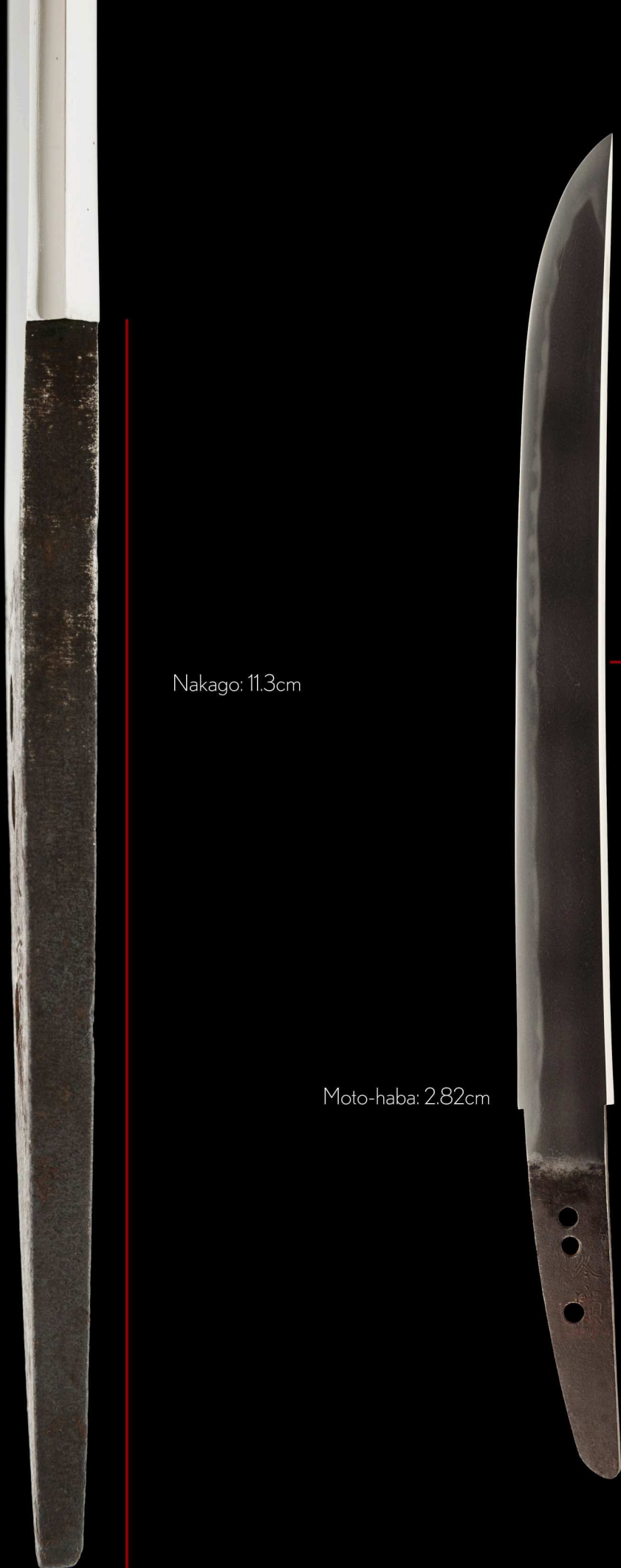
Nakago: 11.3cm

Moto-haba: 2.82cm

Nagasa: 29.8cm

Sori: 0.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



This terrifically collectible *tantô* was crafted by 5th generation *Fuyuhiro* who worked during the *Momoyama Keichô* period (1596~1615) in *Wakasa* province which today occupies the southwestern portion of *Fukui* prefecture on the Sea of Japan.

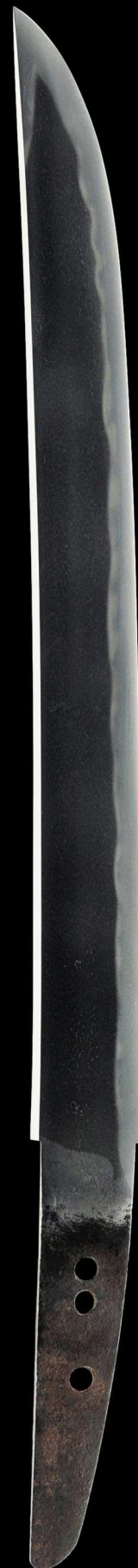
Born *Takahashi Gorôzaemon*, Fuyuhiro was the son of *Sôshû Hirotsugu*, who took over the *Fuyuhiro* school when the 4th generation moved to *Bitchû* province. The honorary title *Wakasa no Kami* was granted to him on December 10, 1598 but because *Kyôgoku Takatsugu* - lord of the *Obama* fief - also bore the honorary title of *Wakasa no Kami*, Fuyuhiro later refrained out of respect from using this title and took on the more modest rank of *Wakasa no Daijô*. Fuyuhiro is rated as *chûjô-saku*, an above average swordsmith.

Standing tall at nearly 30cm, this long and wide *tantô* in *hirazukuri* shape carries a bright, shining *ko-gunome hamon* on a darkish jigane and a pointed *bôshi* that flickers like a candle. The bulbous *funagata nakago* speaks to the famed *Sôshû* background of the school.

It should be stated that *tantô* crafted in the *shintô* period are rare, as most *tantô* seen today are either made in the *Muromachi* period (and earlier) or during the *shinshintô* period in the final decades of the *Tokugawa* shogunate of the *Edo* period.

What makes this sword truly sing is its spectacular set of *koshirae* that is focused around a *fuchi-kashira* crafted by *Miyata Nobukiyo* gloriously depicting parent and cubs of tigers and leopards. The *saya* (scabbard) is beautifully lacquered with artwork showcasing the glory of bamboo rustling in the wind.

Both the sword *and* *koshirae* have been awarded *NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon* certification.





Title: *Wakasa Daijô* (Lord of Wakasa province)
Swordsmith: *Fuyuhiro* (fifth generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)
katte-sagari-yasurime (sloping file marks)

冬 (Fuyu)

廣 (hiro)



(*ura*, reverse)



funagata

Hôchô Masamune Tantô
14th century Kamakura period
Japanese National Treasure

The shape of the *nakago* (tang) is called *funagata* (boat-shaped), as the line of the cutting edge reminds one of the bottom of a boat. "Funa" or "fune" means boat.

The *funagata nakago* is traditionally associated with the *Masamune Hôchô* masterpiece and the many generations of smiths in the *Fuyuhiko* school that faithfully worked in the *Sôshû* tradition from late *Muromachi* and into the *shintô* and *shinshinto* periods.

特選
04-2022-12

No 1020052



鑑定書

一短刀 銘 冬広(若狭大掾・新刀)

長九寸八分半

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

令和五年三月十日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京都教育委員会
第 125539 号
昭和40年7月1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 5th year of Reiwa (2023), March 10th

One, Tantô

Mei (signature)

Fuyuhiko (Wakasa Daijô - Shintô)

Nagasa (length)

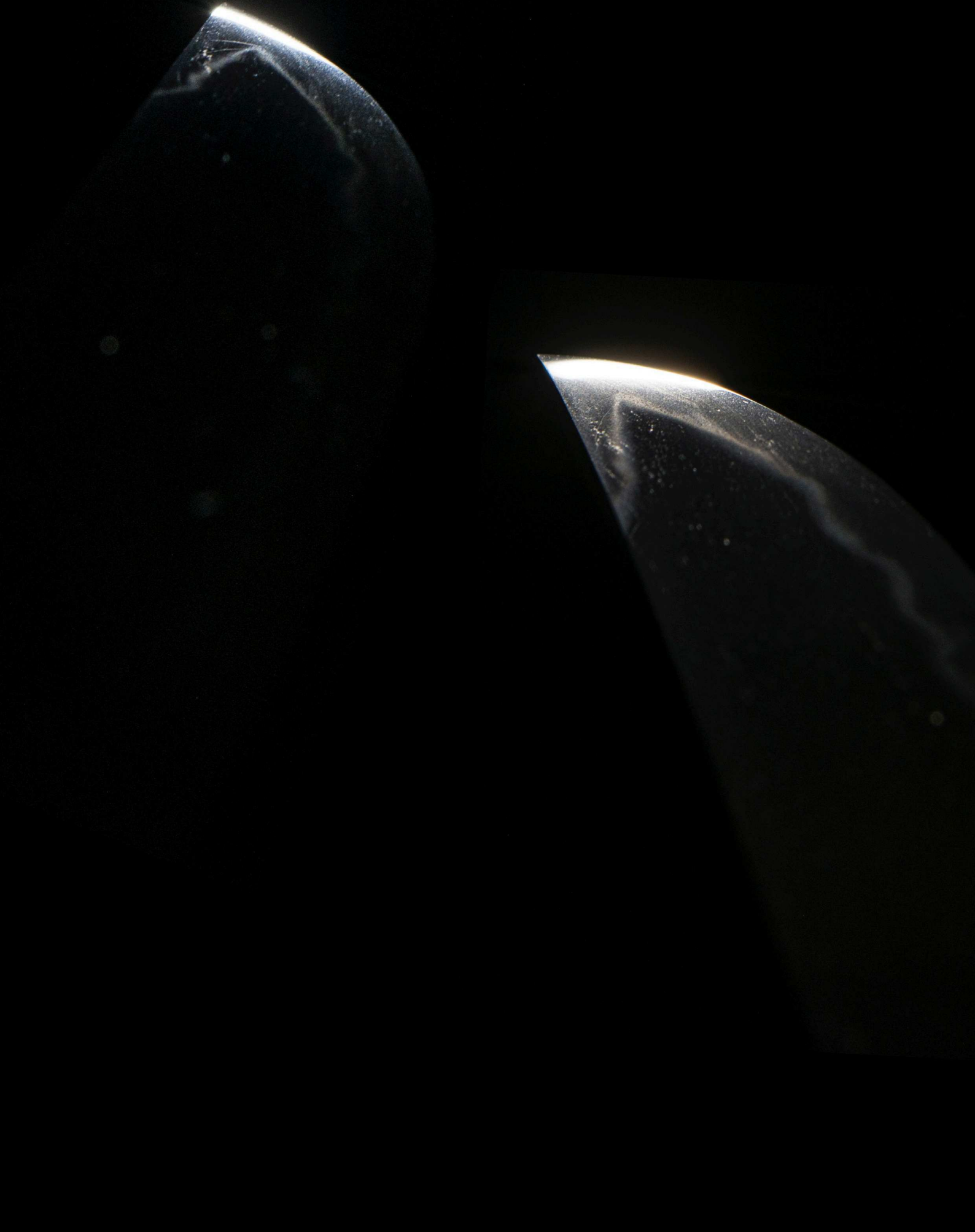
9-sun 8-bu han (29.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

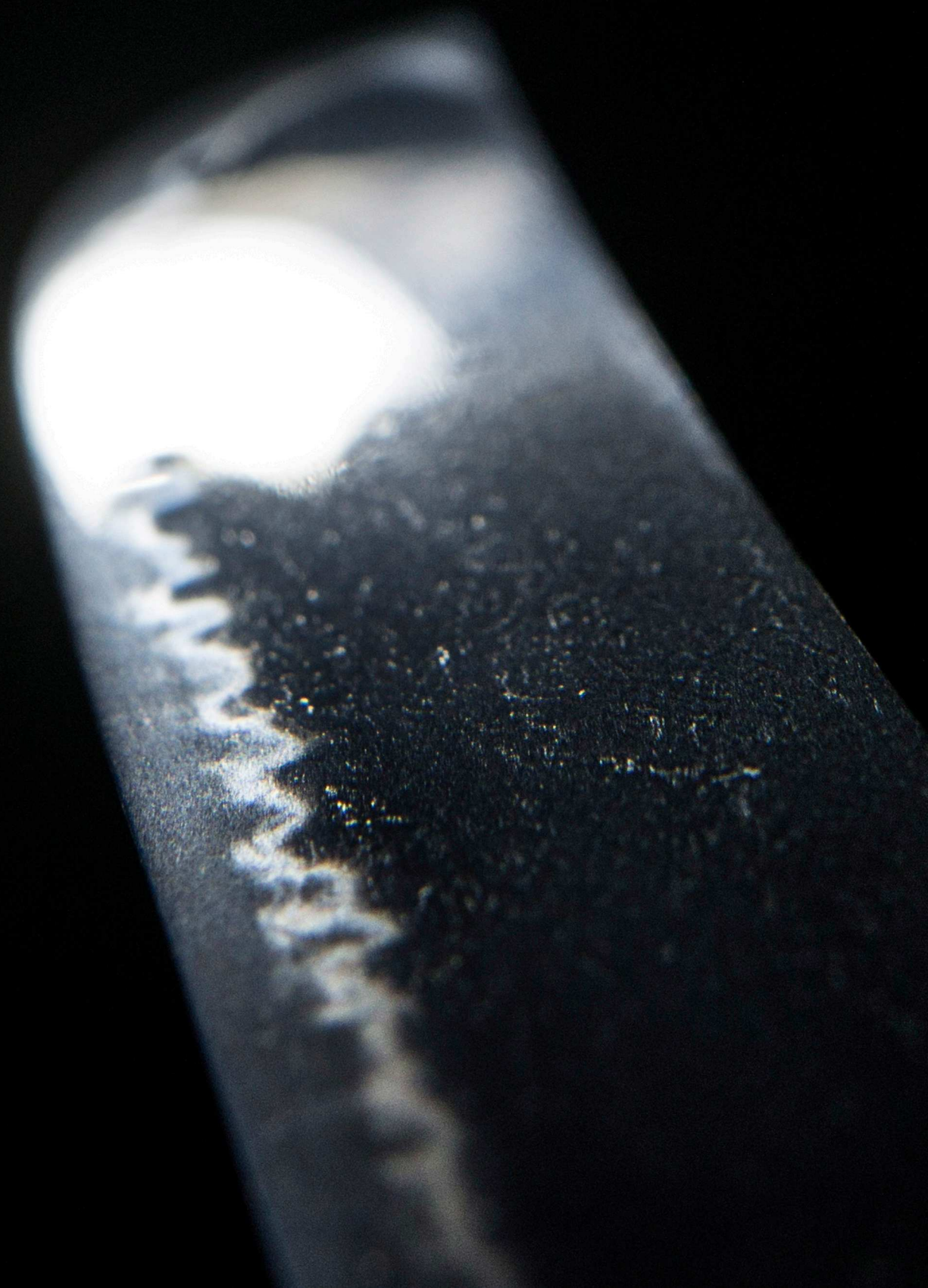


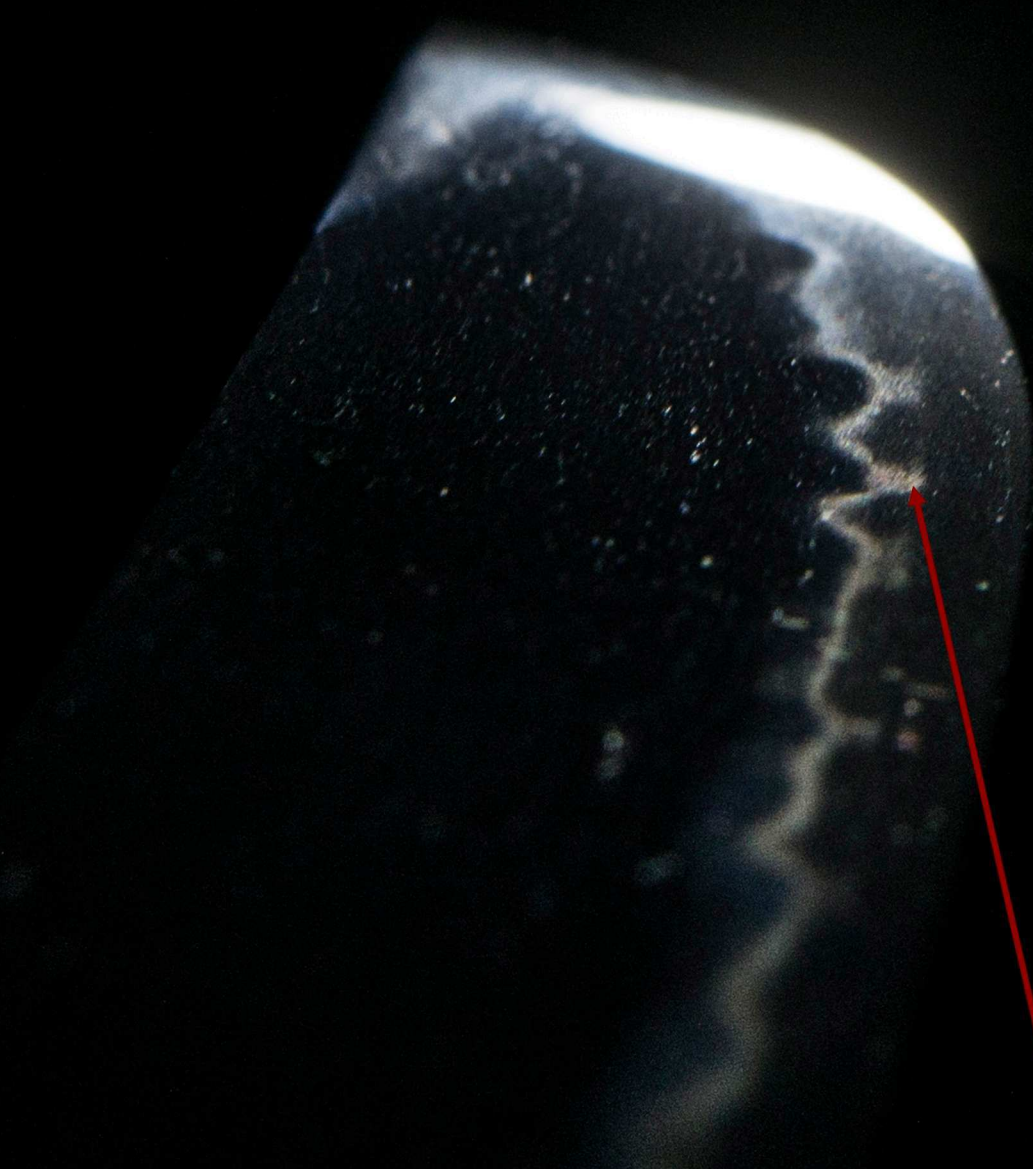


A pointed *bôshi* burns like the flame of a candle.

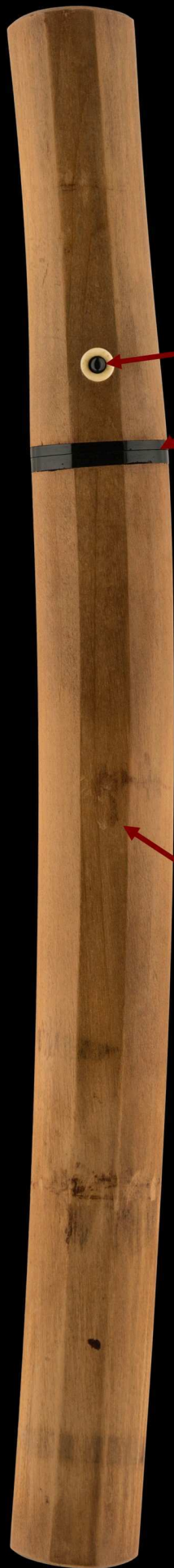


A bright *ko-gunome hamon* resembling a stream of water shines upon the steel.





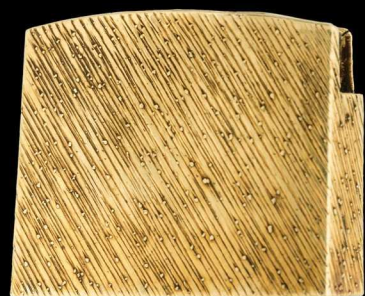
ashi (legs) spray out
to the cutting edge



buffalo horn

Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

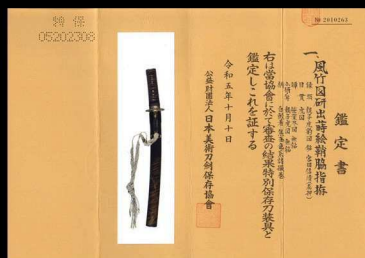
sayagaki by *Nozomi-san* can be arranged



gold *habaki* with
diagonal file marks

*Fûchiku no zu
togidashi-makie saya
wakizashi-koshirae*
(風竹図研出蒔絵鞘脇指拵)

*Wakizashi-koshirae
with polished maki-e
depicting bamboo trees
rustling in the wind*



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon
Certificate of Authenticity

05202306

No 2010263



公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会



令和五年十月十日

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

縁頭 親子虎豹図 銘 宮田信清(龙押)
目貫 虎図
鐺 笹葉尽図 無銘
小柄穿 親子虎豹図 無銘
柄 白銀着 焦茶色糸詩撮卷

一、風竹図研出蒔絵鞘脇指拵

鑑定書

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 5th year of Reiwa (2023), October 10th

*Wakizashi-koshirae with polished maki-e depicting
bamboo trees rustling in the wind.*

*Fuchigashira depicting parent and cub of tiger and leopard
signed Miyata Nobukiyo + monogram*

Menuki depicting a tiger

Tsuba depicting bamboo leaves, unsigned

Kozuka and kôgai depicting tiger parent and cub, unsigned

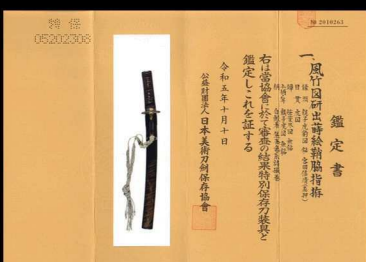
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



baby tiger

leopard

(Miya) 宮
 (ta) 田
 (Nobu) 信
 (kiyo) 清
 (kaô) 花押



Entire koshirae was awarded
 NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon

This brilliant *fuchi-kashira* was signed by the talented metalsmith
Miyata Nobukiyo. His full biography is listed on the next page.



This glorious *fuchi-kashira* depicting a parent and cub of a tiger and leopard was crafted by *Miyata Nobukiyo*. Nobukiyo was born in *Kyôto* on December 22, 1817 in the fourteenth year of *Bunka era* as the third son of *Kinoshita Yahachi*, a retainer of the *Inaba* family. In the fourth year of *Tenpô era* (1833), when he was just fifteen years old, he was adopted by *Miyata Yûzen*, a *Shintô* priest of *Kyôto's Kamo-jinja*. His first name was initially *Tetsunosuke* and later *Orie*. At sixteen he entered apprenticeship with *Gotô Mitsuyasu*, the fifth generation of the *Hanzaemon* line.

When Nobukiyo turned twenty one he received a stipend from the *Inaba* family and spent two years refining his craft. Two years later in 1843 he went to Edo (Tokyo) and opened up his business in *Kayaba-chô* in the *Nihonbashi* district. He subsequently worked for a small Edo branch of the *Hosokawa* family and also for *Mutsu's Nanbu* family who both granted him a stipend for the support of twelve persons. *Nobukiyo* used the *gô* (pen name) *Kakumeisai* and *Jurakusai*. In his later years he moved to *Kanasugi* in Edo's *Nippori* district where he died on December 3, 1884 in the seventeenth year of Meiji period at the age of sixty eight.



tsuba depicting bamboo leaves





Menuki continue the tiger theme, guarding the koshirae with ferocity.





mumei (unsigned)

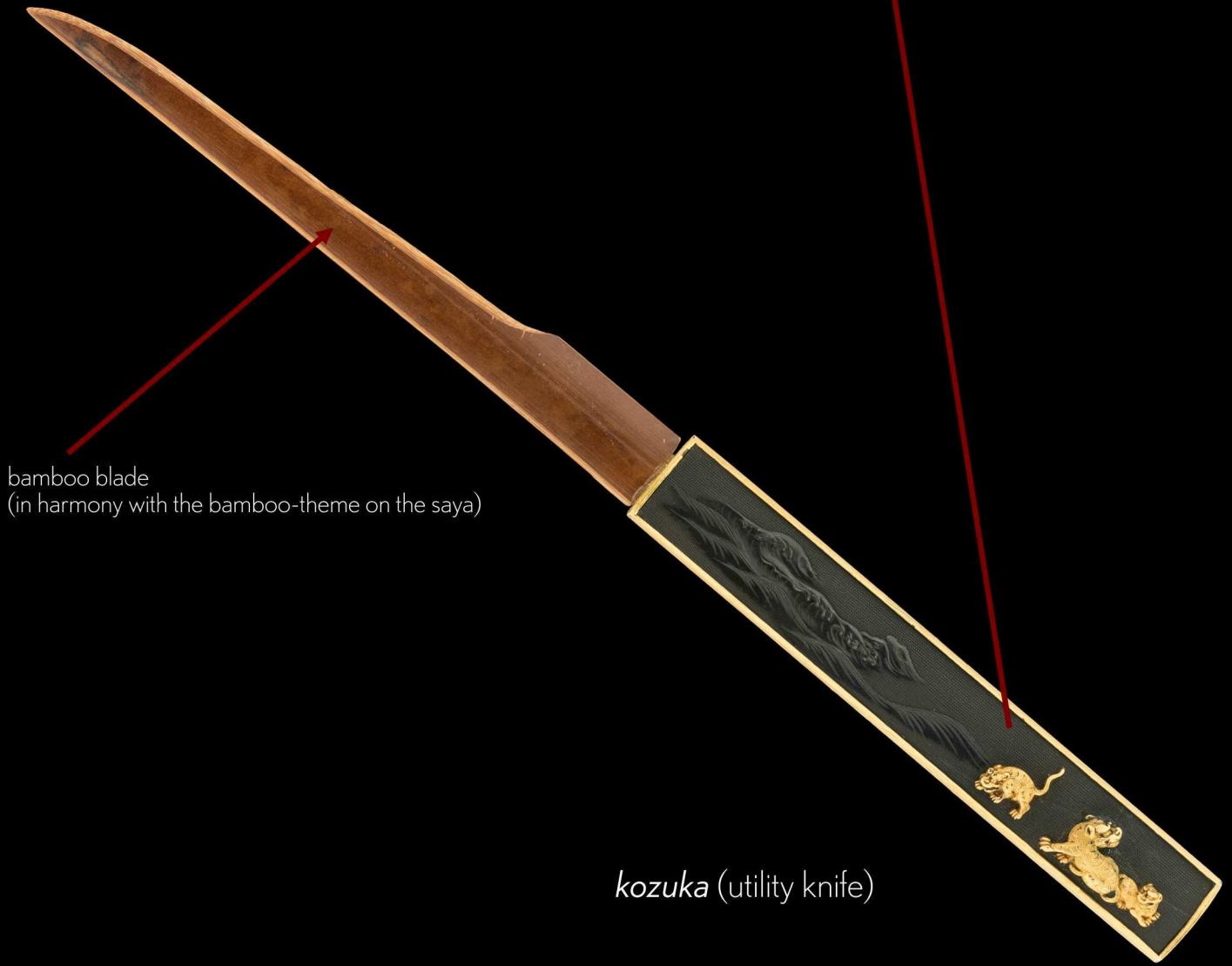
A kogai is a thick blunt needle that was primarily used as a hair arranging tool by the samurai. It is fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard) and drawn through the 'bumpy' hole in the tsuba. The design is that of *tora* (tigers) - parent and cub - with rolling waves in *shakudô* in the background.



parent and cub (tigers)

powerful waves gripping their way to shore





bamboo blade
(in harmony with the bamboo-theme on the saya)

kozuka (utility knife)



bamboo beauty



Reference piece



Pictured here is a lovely *tantô koshirae* that was crafted by *Miyata Nobukiyo* that is on display in Gallery 380 at the The MET Fifth Avenue in New York.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/21907>





Koshirae bag

A complimentary sword maintenance kit with *mekugi-nuki* and a bottle of *Fujishiro* sword oil (trusted by the Japanese sword museum) is included with all sword purchases.



safe, extra large cloth for adding oil to the blade