



ITEM# UJWA137

## A CHIYOZURU SCHOOL O-WAKIZASHI UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (CIRCA 1338-1367)

**Swordsmith:** The Chiyozuru School (attribution)  
**Location:** Echizen province (Fukui prefecture)  
**Length:** 57.0cm      **Curvature:** 1.7cm      **Motohaba:** 3cm      **Sakihaba:** 2.5 cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-itame and masame  
**Hamon:** Gunome midare, bright and sophisticated kinsen, sunagashi in hachu  
**Boshi:** Midarekomi, saki, togari-kokoro and kaeri  
**Nakago:** O-suriage (shortened)  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword – vintage certificate issued in 1969)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Koto period swords crafted with an imposing *o-kissaki* (large tip) and wide *mihaba* (width) were seen during the turbulent mid-Nambokucho period (1338-1367). Many long tachi produced in the 14th century have since been shortened as per this sword.

This outstanding long wakizashi carries an eye-catching *gunome midare hamon* packed with *hataraki* such as *kinsen* (lines of gold) and *sunagashi* (streaks of sand). Considering that it was shortened quite dramatically, it still maintains a strong, healthy and elegant curvature.

The vintage NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho certificate attributes the sword to the Chiyozuru School. The school first began with *Chiyozuru Kuniyasu* who apprenticed under *Rai Kuniyasu*. Kuniyasu left Kyoto to Echizen in 1337 seeking water suitable to forge his swords.

Chiyo-zuru was, in fact, Kuniyasu's nickname. Renowned smiths of the Chiyo-zuru School were the two generations of Kuniyasu, Morihiro, Morishige, Ieyasu, Iemasa and Ieyoshi. First generation Morihiro is said to be the son of *Rai Kuniyasu* therefore commonly referred to as "*Echizen Rai*". The number of works from this school of smiths is small making any find a happy little piece of Japanese treasure.

When the Samurai sword was banned from public wear at the start of the Meiji period (circa 1868), Echizen smiths shifted their skills towards making the finest and sharpest kitchen knives in the country. A tradition that proudly lives on to this very day...

