



ITEM# UJWA138

## A KANENAGA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENBUN ERA: 1532-1555)

**Swordsmith:** KANENAGA (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province (Gifu prefecture)  
**Length:** 53.9cm      **Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Jihada:** *Ko-itame*  
**Hamon:** *Gunome choji midare, togari-ba, bright and clear hachu*  
**Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, takanoha yasuri*  
**Boshi:** *Midarekomi, komaru and kaeri*  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

This masculine looking wakizashi, made almost 500 years ago in the Muromachi period, has been attributed to swordsmith *Kanenaga* of the Mino tradition.

A distinct feature of Mino swords is the presence of *togari-ba* (tapered points) in the *hamon*

resembling treetops. This fire-like *hamon* is a mixture of a bright *gunome choji midare* (wavy clove blossoms) with *togari-ba* that burns along the blade in captivating fashion.

The Edo period *koshirae* features a *fuchi-kashira* with bamboo representing prosperity given their sturdy roots. Traditionally the Japanese were told to run into the bamboo groves in the event of an earthquake, as the bamboo's strong root structure would hold the earth together.

Simple and unadorned, bamboo is also symbolic of purity and innocence. The beautiful *ishimeji* (stone lacquered) scabbard is reinforced with a *kojiri* (tip) adding strength.

The *sukashi* (open work) *tsuba* is of *matsu* (pine trees). Pine trees occur naturally in Japan and are prized for their practical uses and attractive appearance. The evergreen pine has come to represent longevity, good fortune and faithfulness.

The Japanese associate the pine with virtue, a principal symbol of long life and even immortality.

