



ITEM# UJWA165

## A HIZEN TADAHIRO II WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661~1673)

**Swordsmith:** *Omi Daijo Fujiwara TADAHIRO (second generation)*  
**Location:** *Hizen province*  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 54.8cm    **Curvature:** 1.0cm    **Moto-haba:** 3.2cm  
**Jihada:** *Very tight itame leading to konuka hada*  
**Hamon:** *Classic suguha with ko-ashi*  
**Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, kiri yasuri*  
**Boshi:** *Ko-maru*  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)  
**Fujishiro:** **Jojo-saku** (*ranked as a highly superior swordsmith*) and **o-Wazamono**  
**Included:** *Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country*

# SOLD

Born Hashimoto Heishiro in Saga, Hizen in 1614, renowned swordsmith second generation (Nidai) Tadahiro began working with his father, maestro Shodai (first generation) Tadayoshi at the tender age of ten.

Guided by his father and other great smiths such as Shodai Masahiro and Yoshinobu, Tadahiro took over leadership of the school at the age of nineteen when his father died in 1632. He then changed his name from Hashimoto Heishiro to Hashimoto Shinsaemon.

Curiously, it is understood that his new name appears on a family document pledging to the Shogunate that the Hashimoto family would not sell swords for export to foreign countries.

As head of the Tadayoshi School, second generation Tadahiro always signed his name Tadahiro and never Tadayoshi. In July of 1641, after only nine years after taking over the Tadayoshi School, he was given the honorific title of "Omi Daijo". He was only 28. Nidai Tadahiro died at the age of 81 in the sixth year of Genroku or 1693.

His works span an incredible 60 years. The sheer quantity and quality of his work makes him one of the most prized artisans, legendary among Hizen smiths.

This signed and very healthy wakizashi (moto-haba of 3.2cm) was made in the Kanbun era (circa 1661-1673) during the twilight era of his career. We can deduce this by referring to his signature at the time and the way the nakagojiri is made to a more gradual point.

The sword has recently been polished and encompasses all one would hope for in a Tadahiro II sword. It features his masterful and iconic *suguha hamon* like a laser beam coupled with a flawless body packed so tightly resulting in the much-desired *konuka hada*.



What makes the sword extra special is the presence of *horimono*, engraving.

On one side of the blade there is a depiction of "Ken with sankozuka" (sword with vajra thunderbolt hilt) seen on the left here.

The other is *goma hashi* (chopsticks used on the altars of Shinto shrines) with a *bonji* character for good fortune.

Of particular note, Fujishiro discusses the rarity of *horimono* on Tadahiro Nidai forged blades in *Nihon Shinto Jiten*:

*"Rarely, there is horimono of kenmakiryu, and these were made by Yoshinaga"*

All told, this is a long and highly collectible Hizen wakizashi by one of the greats of the school certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon.

A thoughtful custom koshirae would compliment this sword very well indeed.



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certification

## A Tadahiro Nidai Wakizashi

Edo Period (circa 1661)

Length: 54.8cm

Curvature: 1.0cm

Classic *suguha hamon*  
(straight temper line)