



ITEM# UJWA191

A TANBA YOSHIMICHI WAKIZASHI SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688-1704)

- Swordsmith:** *Tanba no Kami YOSHIMICHI (3rd generation Osaka branch)*
- Location:** Settsu province (Osaka prefecture)
- Measurements:** **Length:** 41.1cm **Curvature:** 0.6cm **Moto-haba:** 2.8cm
- Jihada:** *Itame (wood grain pattern), nereru*
- Hamon:** *Yakidaka and wonderful sudare-ba (bamboo blind) in sashikomi polish*
- Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, o-sujikai (acutely slanted file marks)*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
- Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Certificate #3, 4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Included:** Edo-period koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

Certain swords exude an air of sophistication and elegance; this is one such sword.

One of the most pleasing hamon forms is the *sudare-ba*. It is a temper line that was pioneered by *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi* in the early 1600s in Kyoto, and faithfully reproduced by the family for several generations.

Sudare is a bamboo curtain, and the unique rolling multi-layered pattern is said to resemble it.

This pleasing wakizashi was crafted by the *third generation Yoshimichi* from Settsu province, modern-day Osaka. He is ranked as *Chujo-saku*, an above average swordsmith by Fujishiro.

Of notable mention is the fact the blade has been polished in traditional *sashikomi*. This type of polish gives the blade a more natural appearance. When the sword is placed under the light, the *sudare-ba* hamon gleams in a kind of playful dance.

The blade has been certified **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** and recently achieved the prestigious certificate **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a highly excellent sword).

A refined set of matching Edo-period koshirae has protected this sword for well over 150 years. It feels as if the sword has been frozen in time since the 1800s. Surely this piece was once part of a Samurai daisho. Both the koshirae and the beautiful *tsuba* from the notable *Nara School* have been certified Kanteisho by the NTHK-NPO.

A *kozuka* (utility knife) with a dragon design fits neatly into the *saya* (scabbard). Rather cleverly, Yoshimichi has depicted the *moon and the sun* on either side of the *kissaki* (tip) reminding us that we all twirl together in this vast universe we call home.



Please watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujwa191-yoshimichi>

Saki-kasane: 4.0mm[^]

Moto-kasane: 5.7mm

Saki-haba: 2.6cm

Nagasa: 41.1cm

Nakago: 14.1cm

Sori: 0.6cm

Omosa: 335g

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







Tan

ba (no)

Kami

Yoshi

michi

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

Location: *Settsu province* (Osaka)

Swordsmith: *Yoshimichi*

27201507



No 1004345



鑑定書

一、脇指 銘丹波守吉道（大阪）

長一尺三寸五分半

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十七年八月十七日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



新潟 教育委員会
第 32760 号
昭和44年 5月 15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

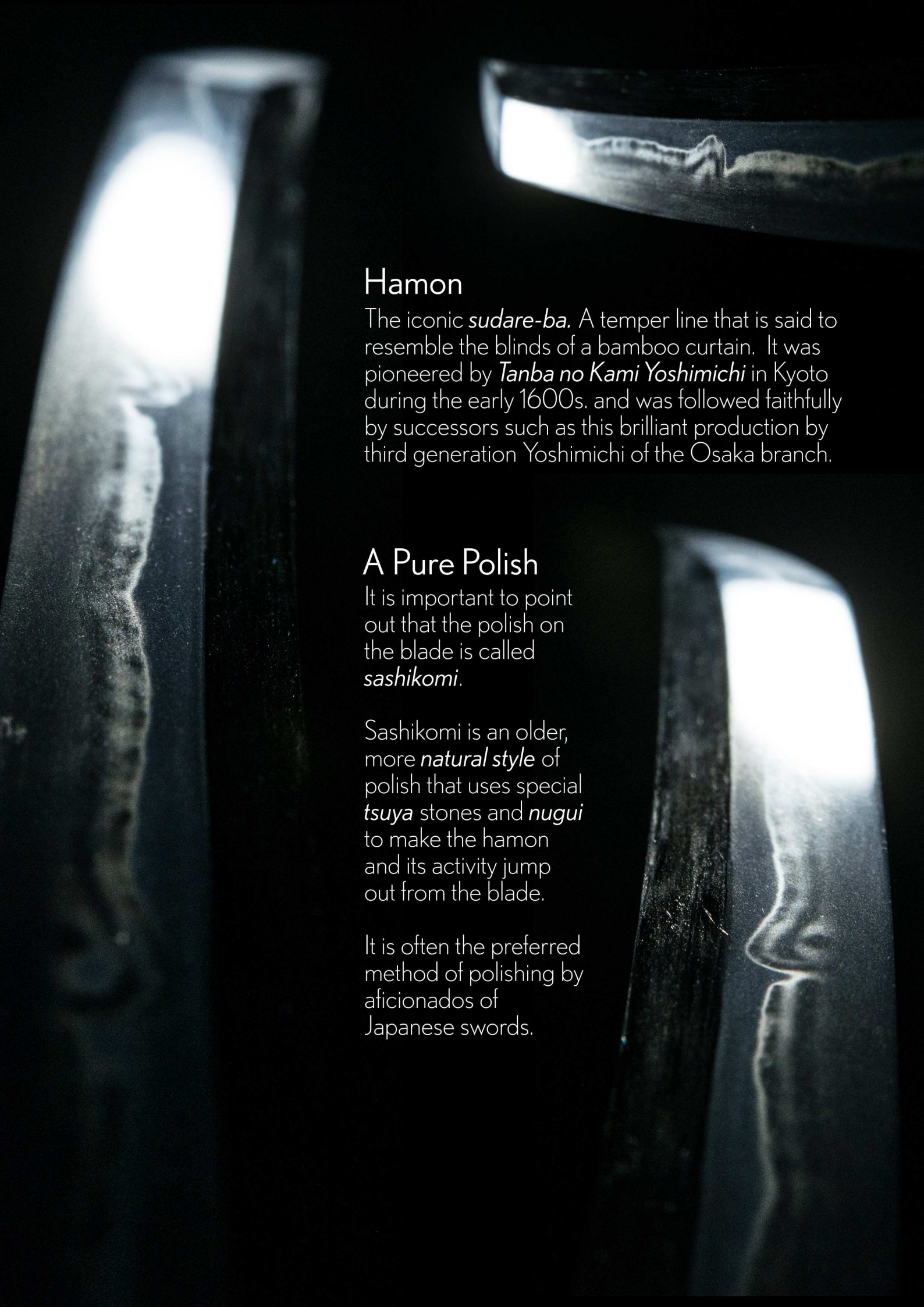
Issued in the 27th year of Heisei (2015), August 17th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)
Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi (Osaka)

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (41.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

A close-up photograph of a Japanese sword blade, showing the hamon temper line. The blade is dark and polished, with a bright, wavy line running along its length. The background is dark, making the blade stand out.

Hamon

The iconic *sudare-ba*. A temper line that is said to resemble the blinds of a bamboo curtain. It was pioneered by *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi* in Kyoto during the early 1600s, and was followed faithfully by successors such as this brilliant production by third generation Yoshimichi of the Osaka branch.

A Pure Polish

It is important to point out that the polish on the blade is called *sashikomi*.

Sashikomi is an older, more *natural style* of polish that uses special *tsuya* stones and *nugui* to make the hamon and its activity jump out from the blade.

It is often the preferred method of polishing by aficionados of Japanese swords.



Celestial Balance

Note how sword smith Yoshimichi has cleverly produced a circular spot of *tobiyaki* on both sides of the *kissaki* (tip).

This represents the sun and moon, suggesting that we all live within a cyclical universe. Having respect for the power and balance of nature is at the heart of Samurai culture.







A Nara Tsuba

This lovely *suika* (pure copper) *tsuba* (guard) has been attributed to the Nara School, one of the most influential schools in the Edo period.

Craftsman of the Nara School worked for the shogunate and much their work glorifies scenes of nature. In this fine arrangement, flying plover birds soar amongst clouds.

The tsuba is accompanied with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity dating the tsuba to middle Edo Period (1700s).

Note the large number of individually hand-punched dots of *nanako*.





Kashira (pommel)



The *fuchi* and *kashira* of the sword's *koshirae* (fittings) are made of iron and lacquered in *urushi* to protect and preserve the pieces.

The elegant and understated criss-cross design is known as *ajiro*, meaning bamboo weaved wickerwork.

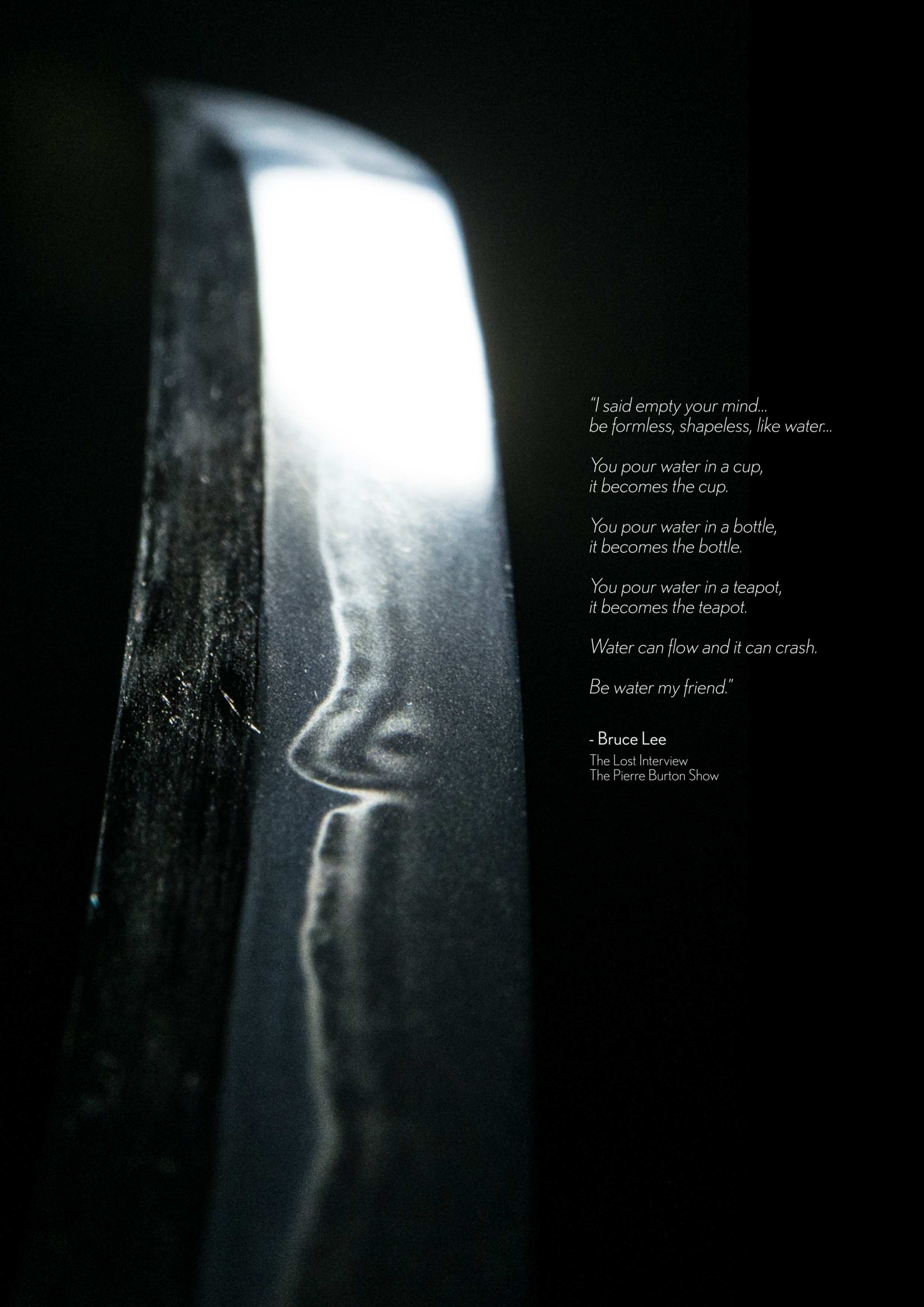
Bamboo, lacquer and Japanese culture are synonymous with one another. To left is a Japanese woman practising *Ikebana* (the art of flower arrangement), positioning the flowers into an ajiro basket.



The *menuki* (decorative grips on the hilt) carry a variation of the *kiri-mon*.

The *kiri-mon* is one of two imperial badges of Japan consisting of three leaves of the paulownia flower surmounted by three budding stems.

The powerful *Toyotomi family* of Osaka adopted this crest as their family crest known as *kamon*. This *tsuka* (hilt) is an antique in her own right, having last been wrapped in the late 1800s during the Edo period. It is in wonderful condition.



*"I said empty your mind...
be formless, shapeless, like water..."*

*You pour water in a cup,
it becomes the cup.*

*You pour water in a bottle,
it becomes the bottle.*

*You pour water in a teapot,
it becomes the teapot.*

Water can flow and it can crash.

Be water my friend."

- Bruce Lee

The Lost Interview
The Pierre Burton Show