



ITEM# UJWA214

A SHODAI KANEWAKA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD, (GENNA ERA: 1615-1624)

- Swordsmith:** *Kashu Ju Kanewaka (first generation)*
Measurements: **Length:** 34.2cm **Curvature:** 1.1cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
Jihada: *Wavy itame with masame*
Hamon: *Deep suguha (straight) with notare, thick sunagashi, kinsuji, yo and ko-ashi (legs)*
Certificate 1 & 2: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: **Jojo-saku** (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
Cutting ability: **Ryo-Wazamono** (maker of good sharp swords)
Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

SOLD

This sharp wakizashi has been certified to first generation *Shodai Kanewaka*, one of the most influential smiths from Kaga province during the Shinto period. His talents so grand, he received the nickname *Kaga-Masamune* after the grandmaster of the Kamakura period. As his fame resulted in quite expensive blades, there was the saying: “*Bushi [samurai] that want to own a sword by Kanewaka will have to spend so much money that they’ll even have to sell their daughters!*”

The unique shape of the sword is that of an iris leaf, called *shobu-zukuri*. The *hamon* is a bright line of deep *suguha* with wavy *notare* and chalk full of *hataraki* (activity) that includes thick *sunagashi*. The sword is secured in a handsome and thoughtful set of Edo period koshirae that tells the inspiring folkloric tale of the monkey reaching for the reflection of the moon.

Saki-kasane: 5.9mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.5mm

Omosa: 420g

Saki-haba: 3.5cm

Nakago: 12.3cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 34.2cm

Sori: 11cm

Mekugi-ana: 2

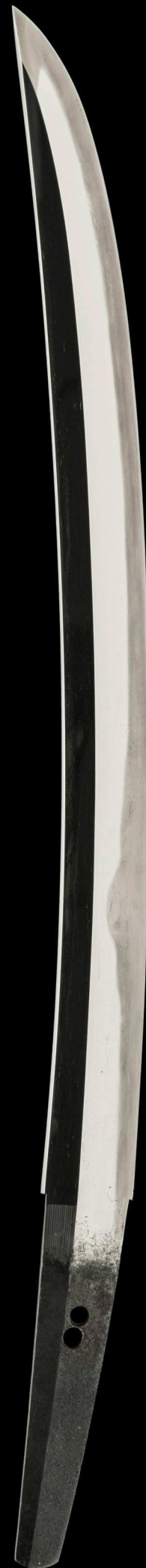


The structure of this sharp sword is called *shobu-zukuri*. Shobu means "iris", as the shape looks like an iris leaf.

The samurai revered the iris as the word *shobu* has the same sound as 'martial' or 'samurai spirit'.



Horikiri no hana-shobu by Hiroshige (1857)



Location: *Kashu Ju* (living in Kashu province)

Swordsmith: *Kanewaka*



Ka

shu

Ju

Kane

waka

Note there are two *mekugi-ana* holes in the *nakago*. This is *not* a case of *suriage* (shortening the sword). This sword is *ubu-nakago*, original length.

What happened is that a previous owner created an extra hole in the nakago to fit a new *tsuka* (hilt).



捺 査 査 印 員	備 考	中 心	彫 刻	鋳 子	刃 紋	銀	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 七 九 六 三 号
	元和頃	目釘穴 二個		直下不丸	右の巾直の刃調灣れ心帯がる		菅蒲造り 板目欠之肌立 庵棟	賀州経業若	

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

Kashu Ju Kanewaka (shodai, first generation)

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 2-sun 9-bu (34.2cm)

Issued in 28th year of Heisei (2016), December 18th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

The *boshi* curls back right into the *mune* (spine) forming *mune-yaki*, tempering of the spine.





powerful *mune-yaki* can be
seen the length of the blade

A mixture of wavy straight grain *masame-hada* and wood grain *itame-hada* can be seen on the surface of the steel.

itame-hada

masame-hada



An eclectic hamon that blends a deep straight *suguha hamon* with *ko-notare* (small wave). *Yo*, *kinsuji*, *sunagashi* and even a light *utsuri* can also be admired.

A close-up photograph of a sword's hamon (temper line) against a dark background. The hamon is illuminated from the side, showing various patterns. Three red lines point from text labels to specific features: 'utsuri (reflection)' points to a bright, curved area; 'kinsuji (line in hamon)' points to a thin, dark line; and 'yo (leaves)' points to a series of small, leaf-like indentations.

utsuri (reflection)

kinsuji (line in hamon)

yo (leaves)

Thick *sunagashi* brushes the hamon.

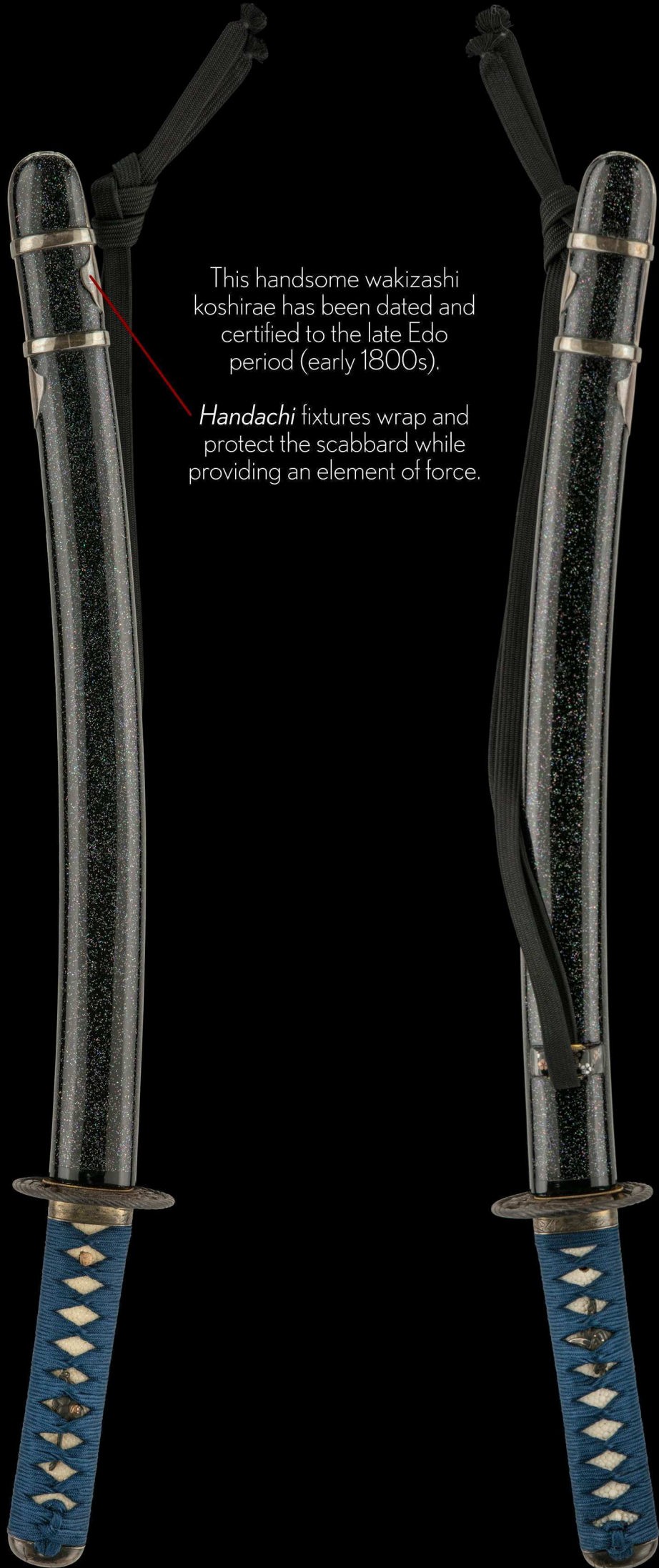




Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



So Yujo yasuri-habaki
(brass with rain pattern)



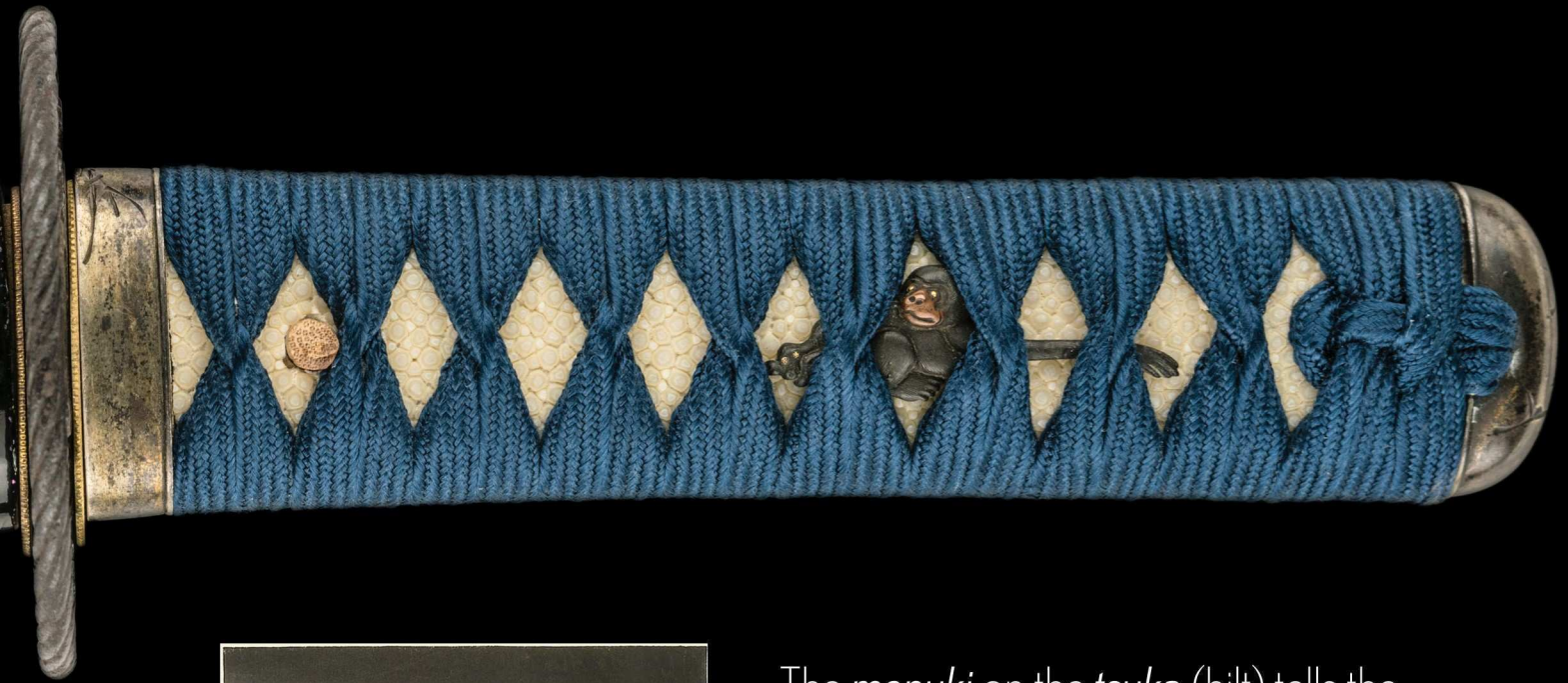
This handsome wakizashi koshirae has been dated and certified to the late Edo period (early 1800s).

Handachi fixtures wrap and protect the scabbard while providing an element of force.



A polished iron tsuba with a seafaring rope design contouring the rim. The silhouette of an anchor amid rolling waves completes the nautical scene.





Ohara Koson - Monkey and Moon

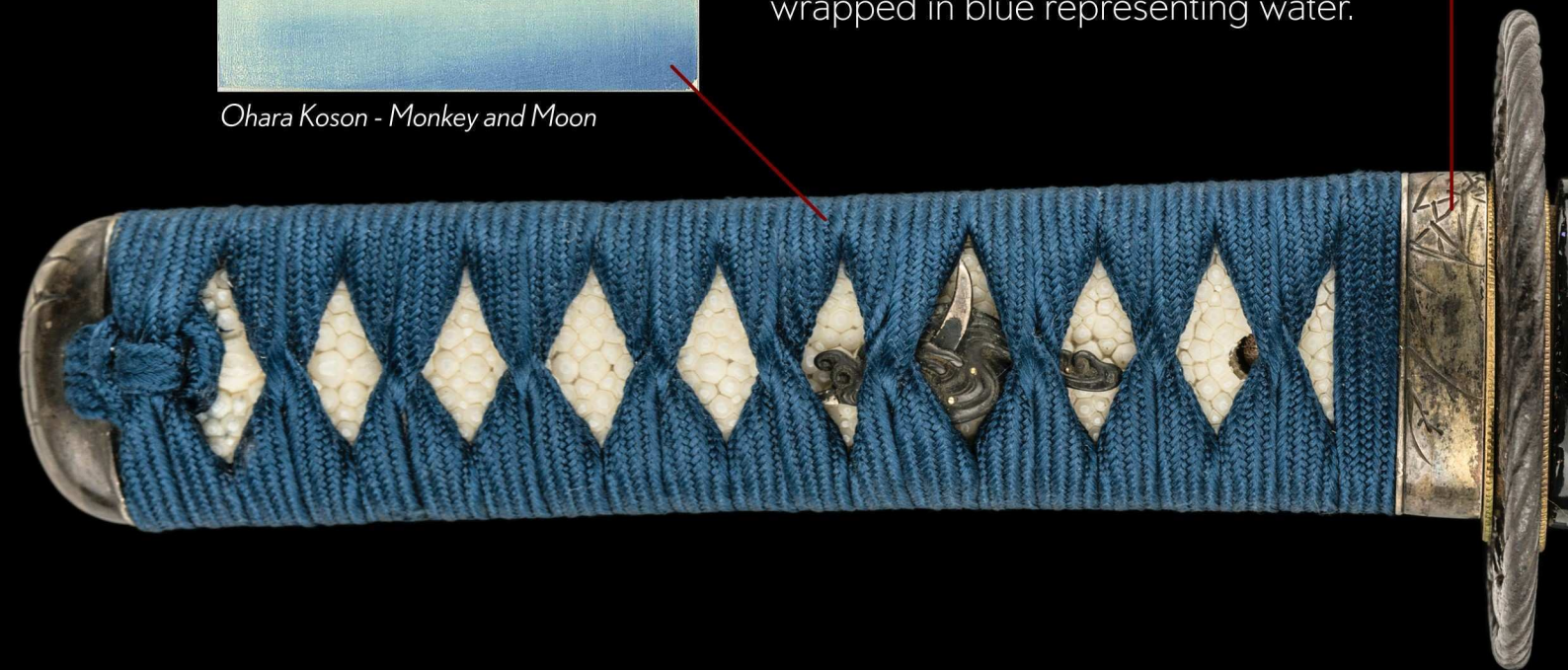
The *menuki* on the *tsuka* (hilt) tells the inspiring story of the monkey and moon.

As poet *Hakuin Ekaku* writes:

The monkey is reaching for the moon in the water. Until death overtakes him, he'll never give up.

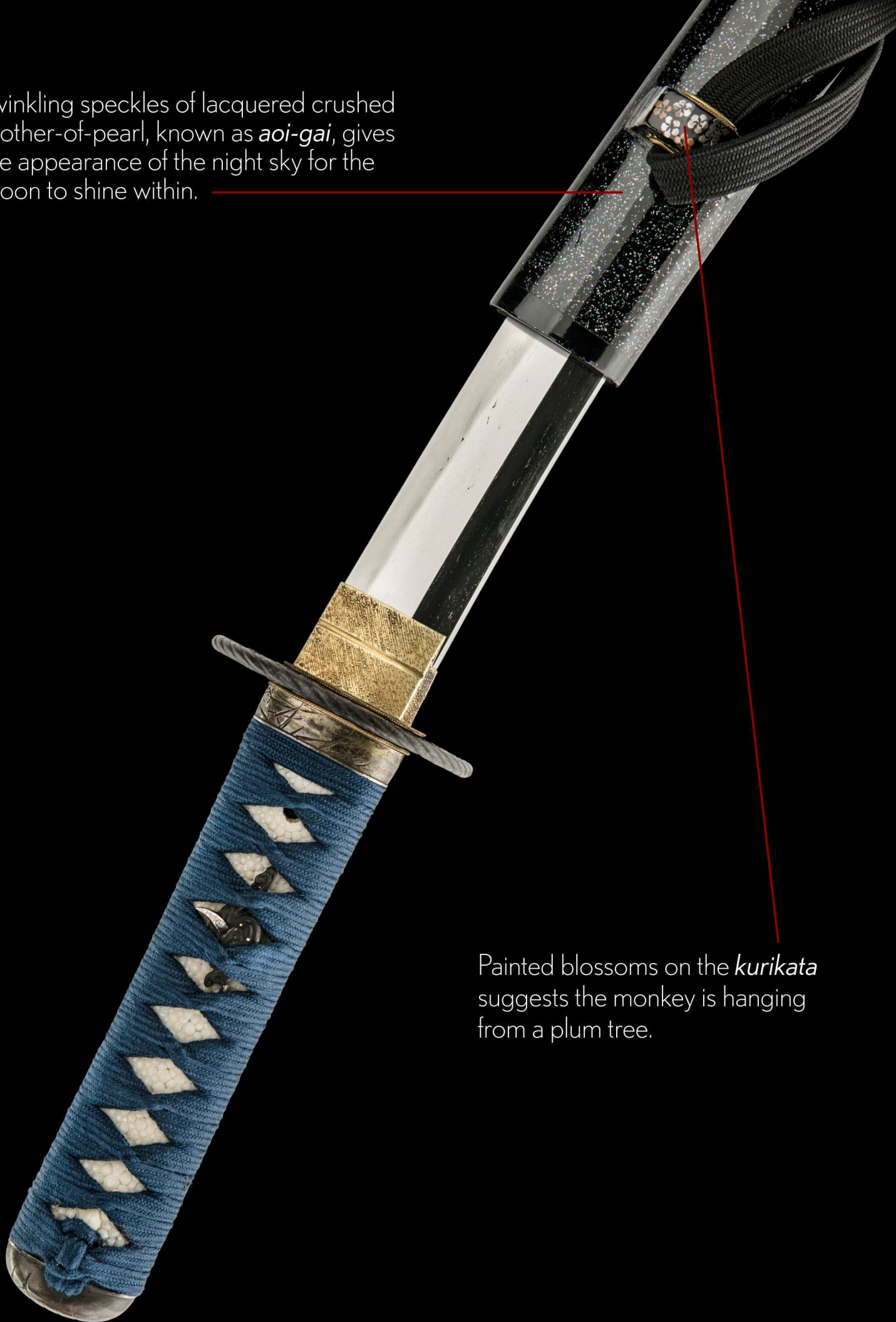
If he'd let go of the branch and disappear in the deep pool, the whole world would shine with dazzling pureness.

Complementing the scene, the *fuchi* is in the design of tree branches and the hilt is wrapped in blue representing water.



Twinkling speckles of lacquered crushed mother-of-pearl, known as *aoi-gai*, gives the appearance of the night sky for the moon to shine within.

Painted blossoms on the *kurikata* suggests the monkey is hanging from a plum tree.





一

kin

(Kaou)

Fuchi (collar) is signed by metalsmith *Ikkin* with his *kaou* (personal seal).



Kashira (pommel)
Geese flying in tandem

The material made to create the *fuchi-kashira* is *shibuichi* - an alloy made up of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ copper and $\frac{1}{4}$ silver.

It takes great skill to work with shibuichi as the material is harder and more brittle than shakudo.

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

Care and Protection

The maintenance kit also includes a large cloth to comfortably and safely rest the sword when viewing (for hours on end!).

And when the sword is not in hand, watch the **Art of the Japanese Sword DVD** or read the insightful sword picture book from the **All Japan Swordsmith Association** (also included free for clients).



40cm x 40cm cloth
(in blue and white)