



ITEM# UJWA229

## A HIROMICHI WAKIZASHI

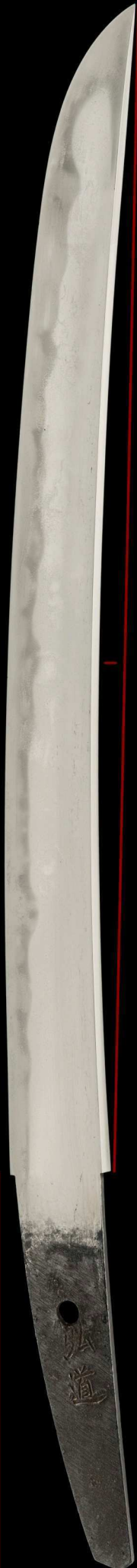
SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (JOKYO ERA: 1684~1688)

- Swordsmith:** *Hiromichi (ubu nakago, Mishina School)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 39.0cm    **Curvature:** 0.8cm    **Motohaba:** 3.4cm
- Jihada:** *Itame and mokume hada with chikei and ji-nie*
- Hamon:** *Dai-gunome midare with kinsuji, sunagashi, yô, tobiyaki in nie-deki*
- Certificate 1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation)
- Certificate 2:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (designated as Especially Precious)
- Certificate 3&4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae and fuchi-kashira designated as Authentic)
- Included:** Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

**SOLD**

This rare and spirited *hirazukuri wakizashi* was crafted by swordsmith *Hiromichi*, student of *Iga no Kami Kinmichi* from the prestigious *Yamashiro Mishina School* in Kyoto circa 1684. Plentiful *hataraki* abounds including *kinsuji*, *sunagashi*, *yô* and *tobiyaki*. This is a gutsy sword that was directly inspired by the Koto-period *Soshu tradition* that *Masamune* made famous.

The wakizashi is secured in a unique Edo-period set of *koshirae* that celebrates our natural world. Centipedes, dragonflies, spiders, trees, fish and flowers are depicted in marvelous detail at every turn. The wakizashi was immensely personal to the samurai as it never left his side. This sense of balance and closeness is particularly tangible within this very special piece of Japanese art.



Saki-kasane: 5.4mm

Saki-haba: 2.7cm

Nagasa: 39.0cm

Omosa: 415g

Sori: 0.8cm

Moto-haba: 3.4cm

Moto-kasane: 7.4mm

Mekugi-ana: 1

Nakago: 13.3cm

以道

The shape of this wakizashi is referred to as *hirazukuri* (flat construction).

Hirazukuri tanto and wakizashi commencing from the *Kamakura period* (1185 ~ 1333) can be seen with this shape.





Location: *Iwami province (Simane)*

Swordsmith: *Hiromichi*

Hiro (meaning 'vast' or 'wide')

Michi (meaning 'path' or 'way')

Before a signature is engraved into the *nakago* (tang), it is finished with a file - leaving distinctive file marks known as *yasurime*.

A variety of filing patterns were applied by various schools and smiths over the centuries.

This type of file mark is called *katte sagari* (right-handed, downward).

This is the second most common file pattern with *kiri* (horizontal) most commonly applied.



特 保  
29201703

No 1007327



鑑 定 書

一脇指 銘 弘道(新刀)

長一尺二寸八分強

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十九年五月三十日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



兵庫 教育委員会  
第 57922 号  
昭和44年 2月 6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 29th year of Heisei (2017), May 30th

One, Wakizashi

*Mei* (signature)  
*Hiromichi* (*Shinto period*)

*Nagasa* (length)  
1-shaku 2-sun 8-bu han (39.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

358512

認定書

一、短指 銘 弘道 長一尺二寸八分五厘

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重

刀剣として認定す

昭和五十三年六月十日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

一 殿



## NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Precious*  
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 53rd year of Showa (1978), June 10th

One, Wakizashi

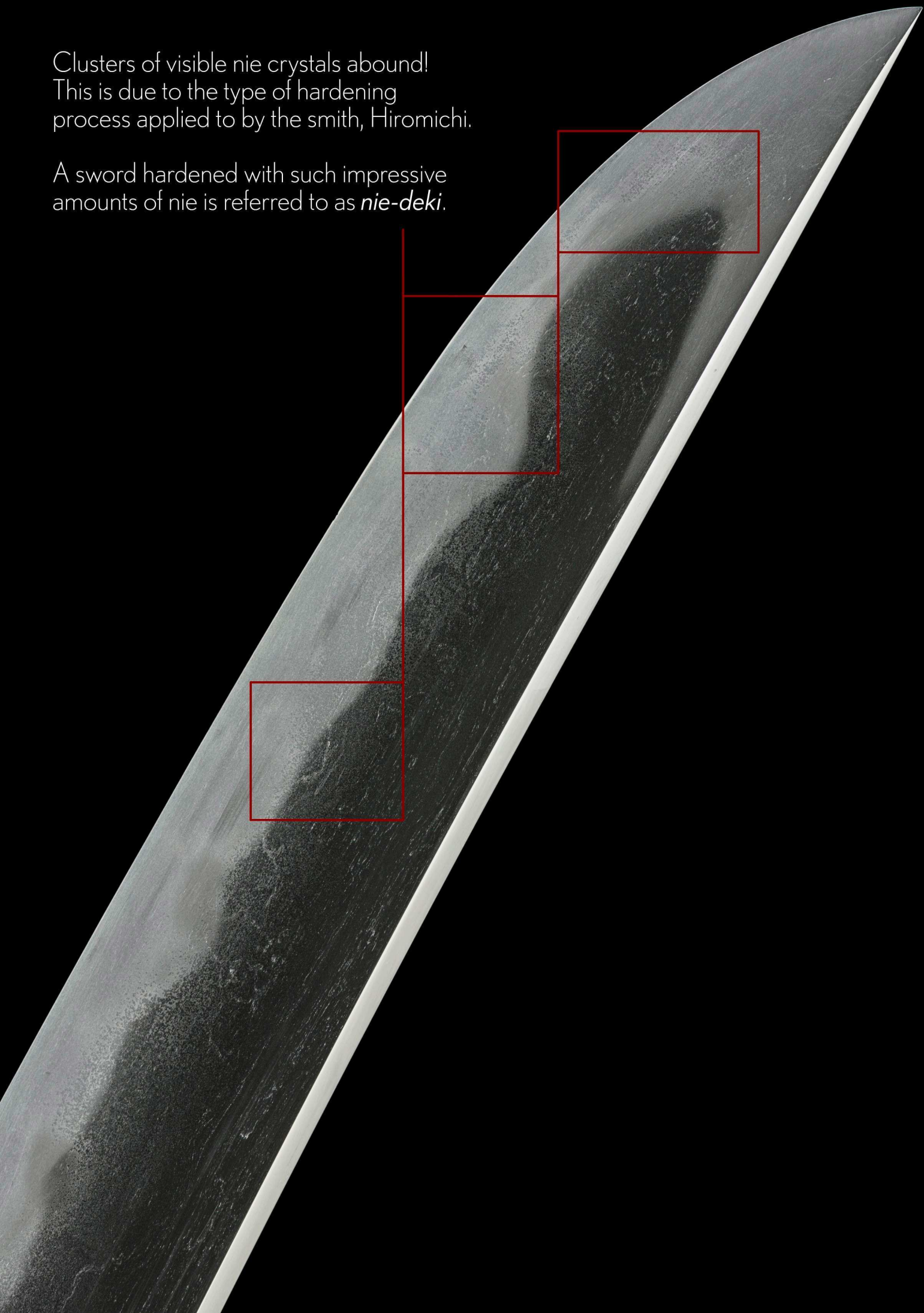
*Mei* (signature)  
*Hiromichi*

*Nagasa* (length)  
1-shaku 2-sun 8-bu 5-rin (39.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

Clusters of visible nie crystals abound!  
This is due to the type of hardening  
process applied to by the smith, Hiromichi.

A sword hardened with such impressive  
amounts of nie is referred to as *nie-deki*.



Literally meaning "*shadow(s) in the steel*", *chikei* are beautiful black gleaming lines of *nie* crystals in the *ji* (body) of the sword that are highly prized.

This tanto is bursting with *chikei*, a feature of well-made swords.



An energetic *dai-gunome midare hamon*  
(varied surging waves)



An abundance of *hataraki* (activity in the steel), makes this wakizashi a joy to admire in the light.

*kinsuji*

golden (black) lines of nie crystals that cut through the hamon.

*sunagashi*

streams of sand

*yo* (leaves) are clusters of nie crystals inside the hamon.



A traditionally lacquered antique koshirae certified to the late Edo period (1780-1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity



The *kurigata* is adorned with butterflies that are thought to carry the souls of the living and of past ancestors.

They are a symbol of joy and longevity.



signed *kogatana*

This sword's *koshirae* features a *kozuka* with the depiction of what appears to be *buri* (yellowtail fish) - a dream dish for *sashimi* aficionados!

The *kozuka* was used by the samurai to open letters, cut fruit, fix shoes, etc. It was a utility knife, not a weapon per se.

The antique blade inside the *kozuka* - known as the *kogatana* - appears to be signed, however, largely illegible.

The *kozuka* slots neatly in the *saya* (scabbard) and is drawn through the hole of the *tsuba*.





A chrysanthemum theme can be seen on the *shakudo nanako tsuba* (guard). The *kiku-mon* or 'Chrysanthemum Seal', still is the official seal of the Japanese Imperial family.

Hiromichi was a student of the prestigious Mishina School, which was granted permission from the Imperial family to place the 16-petal kiku-mon and variations of the kiku-mon on their swords. It was a great honour and privilege.



(reverse)



A fly and spider share sides on the copper *fuchi* (collar) while a centipede slithers its way along the *kashira* (pommel). Small logs of wood cleverly form the *menuki* (grips).





Rings of a tree are depicted in this celebration of nature's magnificence.





This *fuchi-kashira* was crafted by *Shugensai Hirosada* of the *Uchikoshi school* in Mito province (Hitachi). The inspiration for the creation was a piece of artwork by the Hamano school's founder, *Shozui*.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity



*kojiri* (end cap)

The samurai revered the dragonfly.  
For when they flew, they flew forward, and never retreated.

Dragonflies are a symbol of determination and bravery, reflecting  
the very essence of the samurai themselves.

