



ITEM# UJWA262

## A SANEMORI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, KOTÔ MIDDLE KAMAKURA PERIOD (BUN'EI ERA: 1264~1275)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Hatakeda Sanemori (shodai)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 51.9cm ( <i>o-suriage</i> ) <b>Sori:</b> 1.2cm <b>Moto-haba:</b> 2.67cm <b>Weight:</b> 500g
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Splendid itame-mokume-hada with ji-nie and an abundance of chikei</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gorgeous gunome-chôji-midare with kawazu-ko-chôji, kinsuji, yô and sunagashi</i>
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> ( <i>sword Especially Worthy of Preservation</i> )
<b>Fujishiro rank:</b>	<b>Jôjô-saku</b> ( <i>ranked as a highly superior swordsmith</i> )
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, printed description

## SOLD

*Hatakeda Sanemori* was a *jôjô-saku* (highly superior) smith active during the mid-Kamakura period, (circa 1275) a golden era of Japanese sword-making. The rise of the warrior class and conflicts such as the *Genpei* war and *Mongol* invasions increased demand for functional swords. Sanemori is believed to be the son or student of *Moriie*, founder of the *Hatakeda* school, who may have descended from the *Ichimonji* line. This elegant and substantial wakizashi by *Sanemori* displays a vivid *chôji-midare* that incorporates the school's iconic *kawazu-ko-chôji* (tadpole-shaped) *hamon*. Lovely *utsuri* is also seen with a heartbeat of *ashi*, *yô*, *sunagashi*, and long lines of *kinsuji*. To think this sword was crafted 750 years ago...one can spend hours under the light admiring such a piece - the stories it can tell. Unique Japan can arrange to take this sword to *Tanobe-sensei* for *sayagaki* services as a well-deserved extra touch. A custom *koshirae* can also be considered, ask for details.



Saki-kasane: 4.5mm

Moto-kasane: 5.7mm

Omosa: 500g

Kissaki: 2.89cm

Saki-haba: 1.83cm

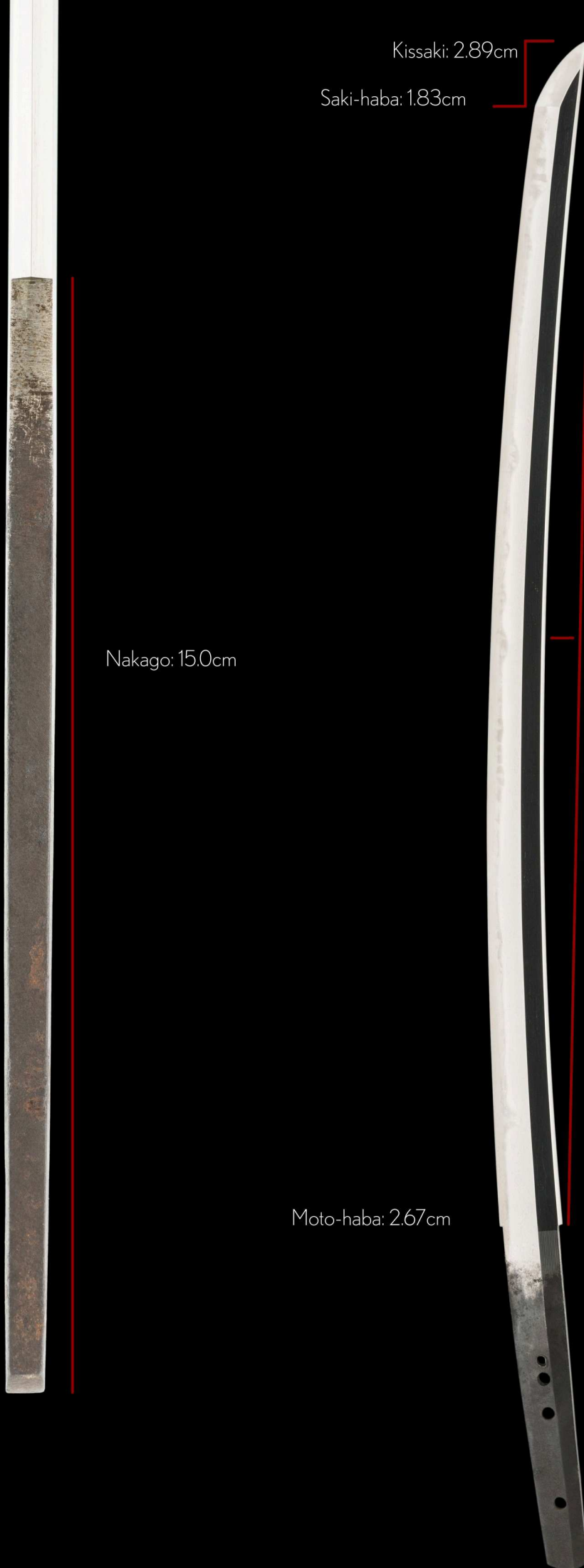
Nakago: 15.0cm

Moto-haba: 2.67cm

Nagasa: 51.9cm

Sori: 1.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 4



*Hatakeda Sanemori* (畠田真守) was a tremendously skilled swordsmith active during the middle *Kamakura* period (circa 1275), a golden era of Japanese sword-making. Five of his swords have made the top NBTHK certification of *Tokubetsu Jûyô* with five *Jûyô Bijutsuhin* (Important Art Object) and six achieving *Jûyô Bunkazai* (Important Cultural Property), two of those were actually national treasures (*Kokuhô*) in the pre-war period. The rise of the warrior class and conflicts such as the *Genpei* war and *Mongol* invasions increased demand for functional swords. Swordsmithing techniques evolved rapidly as the *Kamakura shogunate* supported smiths through official appointments. *Bizen* Province, rich in *tamahagane* and water, became a major hub and *Sanemori* worked during this peak period of *Bizen* sword culture.

*Sanemori* was the son or student of *Moriie* (守家), founder of the *Hatakeda* school which was named after *Hatakeda* village, located east of *Osafune* in *Bizen* Province which was rich in materials and home to many skilled smiths. *Hatakeda* smiths eventually moved into *Osafune* and merged traditions, which *Sanemori*'s work beautifully embodies.

*Moriie* may have descended from the *Ichimonji* line, known for a more flamboyant hamon. *Sanemori* inherited this style and refined it further. He often signed with the title *Sama no Jô* (左馬允), indicating a noble rank. *Sanemori* is considered the second most prominent figure in the school.

This *wakizashi* by *Sanemori* displays an elegant curvature, fine *ko-itame*, and a vivid *chôji-midare* that incorporates the school's iconic *kawazu-ko-chôji* (tadpole-shaped) *hamon*. Glorious *utsuri* is also seen with *ashi*, *yô*, *sunagashi*, and occasional *tobiyaki*. Compared to *Moriie*, *Sanemori*'s style is slightly more restrained, balancing flamboyance with refinement.

This sword represents a terrific opportunity to acquire a master *Kamakura* period smith blade at an attainable price, allowing for countless hours of admiration under the light. To think this sword was crafted ~750 years ago...One may consider building a custom *koshirae* for the sword, but it's not a requirement at all. Unique Japan can arrange to take this sword to *Tanobe-sensei* for *sayagaki* services, as he'd appreciate seeing any quality sword by *Sanemori*. This would add a well-deserved touch.





The image displays two views of a sword blade (nakago) against a black background. The top view shows the blade's upper portion with a dark, polished area labeled 'hamachi' and a lighter, textured area labeled 'kurijiri'. The bottom view shows the blade's lower portion with four circular holes (mekugi-ana) and a dark, polished area labeled 'kurijiri'. Red arrows point from the text labels to the corresponding parts of the blade.

*hamachi*

The *nakago* features *kurijiri*, characteristic of the *Kamakura* to early *Nanbokuchō* period.

The *yasurime* are neat horizontal *kiri-yasuri* showing disciplined craftsmanship.

Four unfilled *mekugi-ana* are present, indicating repeated re-mounts over the centuries.

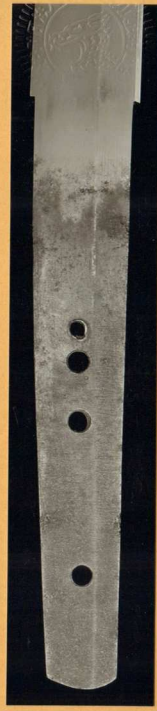
The *nakago* is well-preserved, with a healthy patina and clear *hamachi*.

Its thickness and shape reflect strength and balance. The aged steel texture and subtle workmanship embody the refined dignity of *Hatakedā* blades.

*kurijiri*

特保  
04-2022-12

No. 1019823



鑑定書

一脇指 無銘 伝(畠田真守)

長一尺七寸一分強

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

令和五年三月十日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



大阪府 教育委員会  
第 101873 号  
昭和62年5月28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

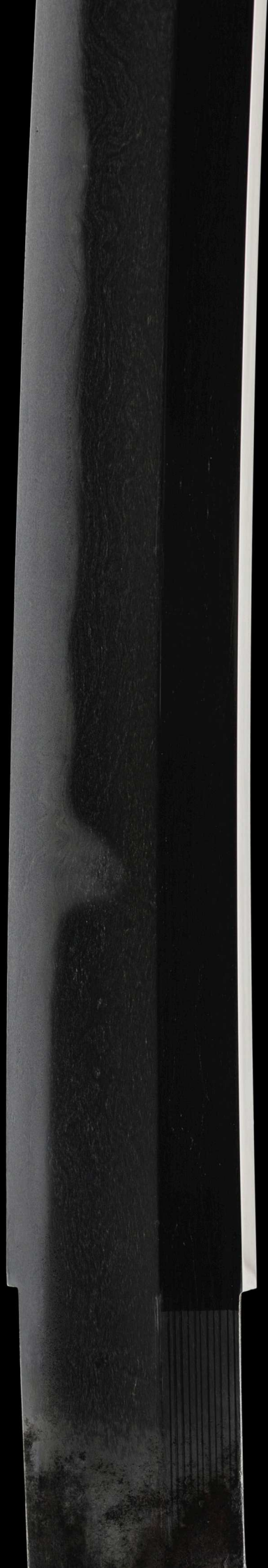
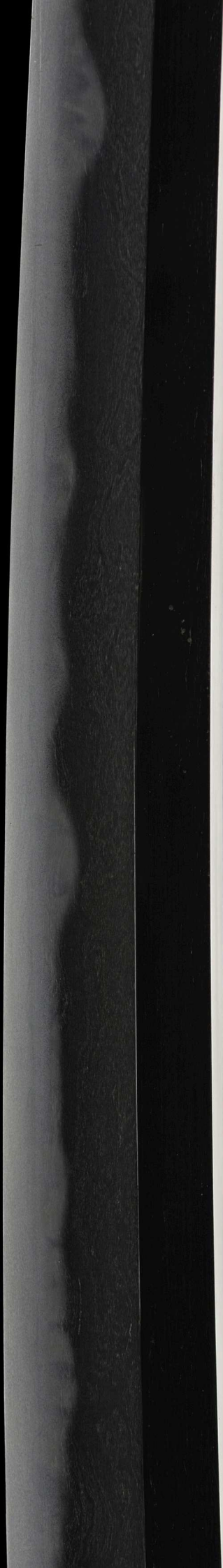
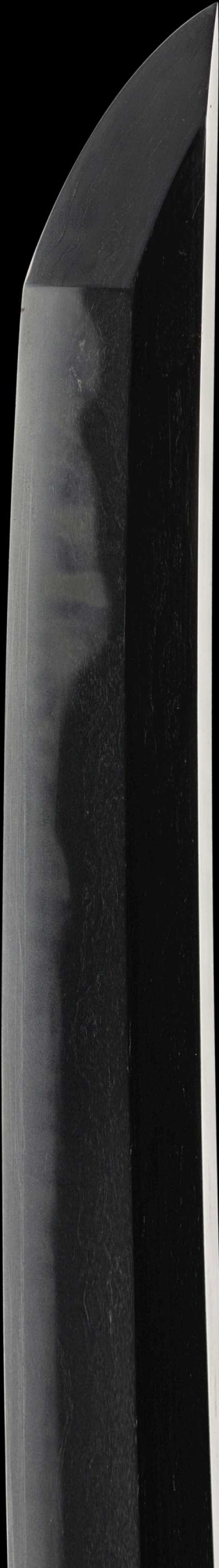
Issued in the 5th year of Reiwa (2023), March 10th

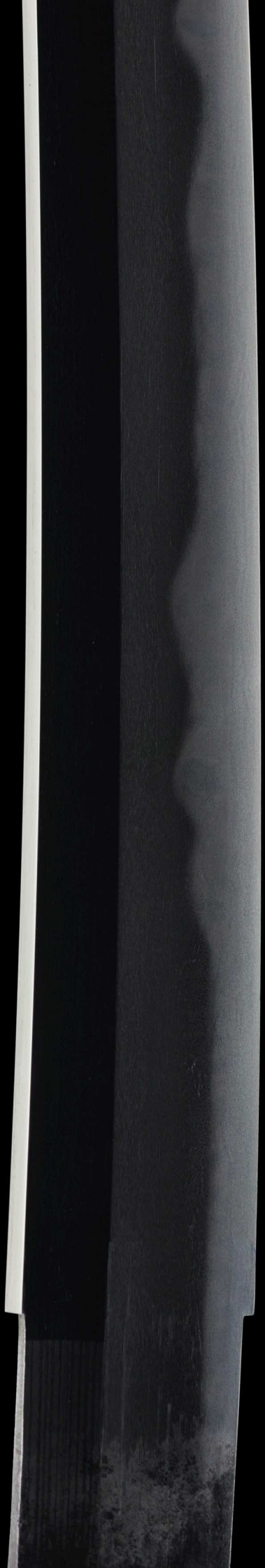
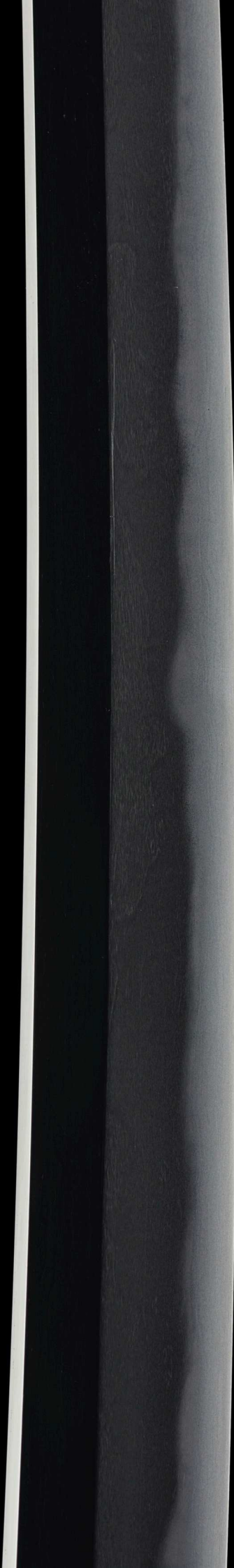
One, Wakizashi

*Mumei* (unsigned)  
*Hatakeda Sanemori*

*Nagasa* (length)  
1-shaku 7-sun 1-bu kyô (51.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)





*kinsuji*

A *kissaki* with wonderful deep *kotô* period character. Parallel lines of *kinsuji* knead through the steel with visible *mokume-hada*.



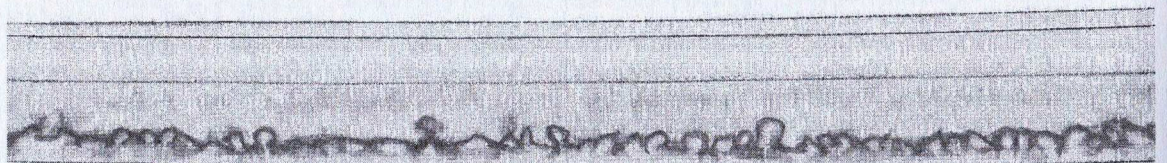


An incredibly beautiful *itame-hada* swirlingly mixed with *nagare and mokume hada* with a generous amounts of gorgeous *chikei*.



*Kawazu ko-chôji*, *Sanemori*'s hallmark.

This "tadpole clove" *hamon* features clove-shaped patterns with long, narrow stems and rounded heads, resembling tiny swimming tadpoles. It is a playful and fluid variation of *chôji-midare*, combining grace with lively movement. The pattern showcases *Sanemori*'s precision and the *Hatakeda* school's unique identity within the *Bizen* tradition.



Hatakeda Moriie (畠田守家)

Gorgeous *kinsuji* (golden lines of *nie* crystals) weaves its merry way through the hamon.



The image shows a close-up, diagonal view of a sword blade. The blade is dark, with a prominent, lighter-colored, wavy pattern running along its length. This pattern is the midare-utsuri, a traditional Japanese sword-making technique. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the undulating lines of the pattern. The background is dark, making the blade stand out.

History in the making.

*midare-utsuri*



*sayagaki* potential



*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



gold *habaki* with  
rainfall file marks