

Finch & C^o



JAPANESE CARVED SPERM WHALE TOOTH IVORY NETSUKE DEPICTING A FUNGI OF PHALLIC FORM

AN UNUSUAL JAPANESE CARVED SPERMWHALE TOOTH IVORY NETSUKE

DEPICTING A FUNGI OF PHALLIC FORM

RED LACQUERING TO THE GILLS AND STALK, UNSIGNED

OLD SILKY SMOOTH PATINA

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 4.5CMLONG, 1¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE SKILL OF THE JAPANESE IN THEIR PRODUCTION OF DELICATE AND EXQUISITE HANDWORK IS ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR PARTIALITY FOR THE DIMINUTIVE, AND TO THEIR HAND/EYE CO-ORDINATION ACQUIRED FROM INFANCY IN THE MANIPULATION OF CHOPSTICKS. INFLUENCED BY NATIONAL MYTHOLOGY AND CULTURAL PREFERENCES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINIATURE WORKS OF ART SUCH AS SWORD FITTINGS, NETSUKE, INRO AND WOODBLOCK PRINTS TOOK PLACE NATURALLY. SUCH WORKS OF ART ARE THE ESSENCE OF JAPANESE TASTE AND HAVE COME TO REPRESENT THE NATIVE ARTISTIC TRADITION OF JAPAN.