Finch & Co



JAPANESE IVORY NETSUKE OF A SKULL ENTWINED WITH A SNAKE

A FINE JAPANESE IVORY NETSUKE OF A SKULL ENTWINED WITH A SNAKE A FROG AND TWO LIZARDS SITTING ON THE CROWN

SIGNED 'MASAYUKI'

LATE 19TH CENTURY – MEIJI PERIOD

SIZE: 4CM DEEP, 3CM WIDE, 4CM HIGH – 1½ INS DEEP, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1½ INS HIGH

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 20, ITEM NO. 29, FOR A CARVED BOXWOOD NETSUKE OF A SKELETON SIGNED SHOKO

LITERATURE

FROGS SNAKES AND LIZARDS ARE ASSOCIATED IN JAPANESE CULTURE AND ARE KNOWN AS THE 'CREEPING CREATURES' OF LAND AND WATER. TOGETHER WITH THE HUMAN SKULL THEY ARE SYMBOLIC OF THE TRANSIENCE OF LIFE AND FORM A NATURAL 'VANITAS'.