

*Jūyō-tōken* at the 48th *jūyō shinsa* held on October 11, 2002

*naginata-naoshi wakizashi, mumei: Nariie (成家)*

## Measurements

*nagasa* 43.7 cm, *sori* 0.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 13.1 cm, no *nakago-sori*

## Description

*Keijō: naginata-naoshi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba, does not widen towards tip, high shinogi, thin kasane, shallow sori*

*Kitae: itame* that is partially mixed with *ō-hada* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, some *jifu*, and a *midare-utsuri*

*Hamon: ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, *ko-ashi*, *yō*, a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and some *tobiyaki* above of the *yakigashira*, the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned

*Bōshi: midare-komi* running out as *yakitsume*

*Horimono: traces of bonji* can be seen on the *omote* side in the upper half of the tang and above of the *mekugi-ana* and on the upper half of the tang and below of the *machi* on the *ura* side

*Nakago: ō-suriage, shallow kurijiri, sujikai-yasurime, one mekugi-ana, mumei*

## Explanation

Nariie (成家) was a Bizen Osafune-based smith and according to a theory a descendant of Kagehide (景秀) (who was the younger brother of Mitsutada, 光忠). He was active in the late Nanbokuchō period and is associated with a group of smiths which is referred to as Kozori School. The *meikan* list relatively early dated works of Nariie that go back to the eras Bunna (文和, 1352-1356) and Kōan (康安, 1361-1362). In terms of workmanship and signature style, a connection to Kanemitsu (兼光) is conceivable and so his background needs further study, and in terms of quality, he ranks about equal to the contemporary Kanemitsu student Masamitsu (政光). Nariie mostly hardened a *midareba* that is mixed with *notare* and *gunome* and in direct comparison with Kanemitsu, his approach lacks some of the grandeur of that master.

This blade was once a *naginata* that has been shortened and reworked into a *wakizashi*. It is likely that the original blade was a classical *naginata* with little bulbousness towards the tip. The *kitae* is an *itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, some *jifu*, and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, *ko-ashi*, *yō*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*. As the *ha* composed of various different elements but which are all rather small dimensioned, we recognize the characteristic features of Kozori works, and in terms of skill of execution, the most appropriate attribution is to Nariie. The blade is of a very good *deki* featuring a *yakiba* with a bright *nioiguchi*.