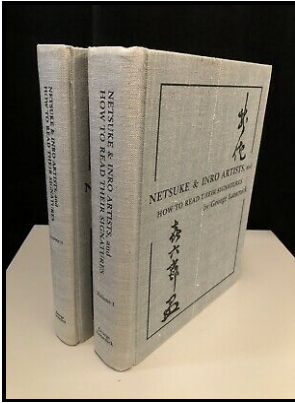


Netsuke & inro artists, and how to read their signatures

Reed Publishers - Collecting Guide: 5 things to know about Netsuke



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Netsuke: 14 Must

Bamboo netsuke are not commonly encountered.

Netsuke: 14 Must

Though often deceptively sold to the modern tourist trade as elephant ivory, items made from ivorine have none of the striations common to animal ivory, though sometimes, the carving is artificially aged to have the yellowed appearance common to true old ivory carvings. Netsuke of Three Rats This netsuke is carved from ivory and depicts three rats huddled close in an interlinked fashion.

Netsuke

Walnut kurumi : The meat from the nut was removed by various means, one being the insertion of a small worm in a hole in the nut to consume the meat. There is real personality here, as well as an impressive amount of detail and shape to the netsuke.

Netsuke, Inro, Sagemono

Many of them exhibit at the International Netsuke Society Conventions. Manju, especially ryusa manju, invariably show this translucent material at opposite edges of the netsuke.

Netsuke

Netsuke of Noh Mask Noh is the oldest form of theatre in Japan, and it is famous for its intricate masks and costumes. This museum is a traditional Japanese residence built in the late Edo period.

Collecting Guide: 5 things to know about Netsuke

Aren't all netsuke made from ivory? Those netsuke-like objects should not be confused with the authentic art pieces regardless of their age and origin.

International Netsuke Society

Instead, under a strong influence of Western collectors visiting Japan in larger and larger numbers, netsuke developed into a form of fine art and exists as such today with true master-carvers from all over the world still creating these little masterpieces. Whale's tooth: The sperm whale has teeth running the whole length of its enormous lower jaw.

International Netsuke Society

While most netsuke depict animals, monks, and natural details, this one represents a tightly bundled batch of household utensils. Lotus Netsuke
The lotus is a prominent symbol of purity in Japanese tradition, rising as it does from unclear and muddied waters and blossoming into a majestic flower. Part of the nut's shell sometimes remains on netsuke carvings.

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