



## Japanese Boxwood Netsuke - Monk In Ecstasy, Edo Period



400 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 3.5 cm

### Description

Japanese Boxwood Netsuke - Chanting Monk  
Figure, Late Edo to Early Meiji Period (ca.  
1800-1880)

Unsigned (mumei), finely carved in boxwood  
with expressive theatrical features.

This finely carved netsuke depicts a seated monk  
in mid-chant or ecstatic outburst, mouth agape  
and features dramatically contorted in a moment  
of spiritual or theatrical intensity. Rendered in  
warm-toned tsuge (boxwood), the figure wears  
loosely draped robes revealing a bare chest, with  
intricate detailing in the folds and facial  
expression.

The face is especially striking: wide, bulging  
eyes, furrowed brows, and carefully carved teeth  
and tongue draw the viewer into a compelling  
moment of exaggerated realism. The back of the

### Dealer

Art Classique

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Bilzen 3740

piece features two generously drilled himotoshi (cord holes), clearly worn smooth through use. The surface bears a naturally developed patina with glowing amber undertones from decades of handling.

This netsuke likely represents a comic or theatrical monk, possibly drawing inspiration from Kyogen drama, yamabushi mountain ascetics, or humorous interpretations of Buddhist disciples (rakan). It embodies the Edo-period fascination with blending spiritual themes with humor and exaggeration.

Condition: Excellent antique condition with minor wear consistent with age. No cracks or repairs observed.

Material: Boxwood (tsuge)

Height: 3.5 cm

Base dimensions: 4.2 x 3.2 cm

Signature: Unsigned (mumei)