



p: 318-220-0995  
 e: info@beauxartsconservation.com  
 w: [www.beauxartsconservation.com](http://www.beauxartsconservation.com)

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Date:    | 08/31/2021 |
| Invoice: | 2021.31    |
| Client:  |            |
| Address: |            |
| Phone:   |            |
| Email:   |            |
| ETA:     | n/a        |

## Carved Ivory Okimono: 11" x 3.25" x 2.25"



### CONDITION REPORT

The figure is carved from walrus ivory and was a traditional decorative piece known as an *okimono*. The figure depicts a fisherman holding a net and wearing a traditional *mino* grass fishing skirt. An angel or *tenyo* who is holding a statue of Buddha rises above his head. It is thought this scene depicts the story of the *Hagoromo*, a winged robe worn by the *tenyo*. The robe is stolen by a fisherman, and in order to get it back, she must marry him or dance for him (there are several versions of the story). This is thought to be a common theme for *okimono*s of the Meiji period. (Please see attached example of a Late 19<sup>th</sup> century *okimono* with the Hagomoro theme). The first *kanji* character on the bottom possibly means "round" *gyoku*. The second *kanji* possibly means "mountain" *yama*. In Japanese makers marks *yama* can also be *zan*. It is thought that the artist may be Asahi Gyokuzan, a famous artist from Tokyo during the Meiji period (1868 – 1912). (Please see attached example of his signature.)

The *okimono* is broken into two pieces, but it has extensive previous repair to the net, ankles, and the top figure. The adhesive has severely darkened, and the joints are not in the correct position. There is dust throughout. There are missing elements to the proper left bottom, possibly a fish, and the fabric swaths connecting the *tenyo* and the fisherman. There is

a chip to her hair ornament and her wings.

### TREATMENT PROPOSAL

It is recommended that the *okimono* be cleaned to remove dust. The old repairs should be reversed and cleaned. The ivory may be stained from the adhesive and the stains may not be reversible. The broken pieces should be reconstructed, and any missing areas filled with a similarly colored material. The treatment is not addressing missing elements at this time.

## TREATMENT REPORT

The dust was cleaned with dry cotton swabs. Acetone poultices were placed over the old adhesive to soften it. The poultices were removed and checked periodically. The acetone did not sufficiently break down the adhesive, so poultices were made using paint stripper. Once the adhesive had sufficiently softened, it was neutralized with distilled water and then mechanically removed with a scalpel.

The top figure was reconstructed first using Epotek 301 and held in place with tape. The net was adhered to the base to create a stabilizing join for the body of the fisherman. Both joins were allowed to cure before reconstructing the rest of the figure. The last joins at the arm and ankles were secured with 301 and a clamp and allowed to cure for 24 hours.

The losses were filled with a mixture of Epotek 301, Cabosil, and powdered pigments, and refined with a soft brush. Once dry, the fills were sanded with cabinet paper. The fills were then inpainted with Golden Acrylic paint in Acrysol WS-24 to match the color and sheen of the surrounding areas.

## DETAIL IMAGES OF OLD REPAIR



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

