

## **Netsukes**

Netsuke's originally served the purpose of holding a pouch or set of vested boxes in place on a Japanese gentleman's pocket-less clothing. These miniature sculptures were usually under 3 inches and typically made from ivory, wood or bone. They hold 400 years of Japanese culture, fact and fantasy, each with a story to tell. Since there was no established tradition to follow, the artists of the 18th Century enjoyed a freedom of interpretation ... Parody, satire and parable could be used without fear of censorship ... It was an opportunity to express thought and feeling. Much of the subject matter is largely derived from Chinese and Japanese legend, religion and mythology.

# **The Omamori Collection**

## **From The Artist**



Each sculpture in this collection was inspired by netsuke carvings and the legends that surround them. As the artist I've applied my own creative interpretation and expression.

The process of creation from start to finish is detailed and lengthy, however, I am personally involved every step of the way. Each sculpture in the limited edition of **50** is an original, in the sense that I fine tune every wax before casting in bronze and you will find "individual" uniqueness - because of that

You may even find my fingerprints. My hope is you will enjoy these characters as much as I enjoy making them!

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Kris Parmele

### Sleeping Shojo

Shojo are mythical creatures who live near the sea and have a great liking for intoxicating beverages, especially sake. They are usually depicted with long dark hair and childlike features, curled up sleeping.

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### Watchful, Crouching Warrior

This design portrays an actor in the role of a warrior lying in ambush, depicting the hugely popular play, first produced in 1748 which tells the story of the revenge of the “Forty - seven Ronin” (master less samurai) The ronin’s patient, watchfulness is evident as he crouches under a straw cloak, drawing a sword with his right hand from a scabbard held in his left.

### Kuan - Yu

Many legends tell of Kuan- Yu ... One of three friends who had sworn an oath of brotherhood and who were renowned for their heroic struggles for justice. In one tale, Kuan- Yu suffered a defeat in which he and two of his friends wives were captured. To protect his friend’s wives from dishonor, he stood vigil outside their room during the night with his halberd in one hand, hidden behind his back.

In Japan, he represented the epitome of Confucian virtue and was a popular subject for Edo prints, paintings and netsuke.

