

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE  
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS  
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

## CERTIFICATE

### **LARGE STELE OF THE LIFE OF BUDDHA GANDHÂRA (AD 2nd-3rd century)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** Large and rare rectangular stele sculpted in bas relief and inset, with three registers that evoke the episodes in the life of Buddha accompanied by servants and Bodhisattvas. The stone is a rather crumbly grey schist. The back of the stele is flat because it must have been placed against the wall of a *stupa* or temple. Ancient restoration on the upper part . The object is fixed on a base.

**ORIGINS:** The system of representation on superimposed levels was much in fashion in Gandhâran art in order to allow the diverse episodes in the life of Buddha to be shown, like here, up to the end of his journey to Nirvana. We see him in the top row seated in meditation on a throne in the form of a lotus bud, symbol of purity, below a floating canopy. Next to him stand the Bodhisattvas, them also princes who will go preach the good word of Buddhism. The lower rows show him surrounded by his servants while placed up in the air are the four angels that incarnated the scourges of the pain of birth, of sickness, of old age and of death, to which humans are subjected.

This stele, though clearly of Indian inspiration, also presents the characteristics of Greco-Buddhist art that developed under the influence of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great's journeys in these regions.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 55 cm / 21,653'' - Width: 27 cm / 10,629''

**CERTIFICATE:** supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of culture numb. 167935.

Police book registration N°: 1621