

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

ARMED WARRIOR WITH A MASSUE: *El arenal brown style*
MEXICO NAYARIT (200 B.C. – A.D. 500)

MATERIAL AND METHOD: Hollow figurine modelled in brownish red terracotta, and showing visible traces of white paint on the face and body. The face is rounded with large almond shaped eyes, an angular nose and a large mouth revealing the teeth. In keeping with the fashion of this culture, the lower body is large with the figurine resting stylishly on thick legs and arched feet. The warrior is holding a club with both hands angled to the right and his hair is styled into a high domed cap finished with a horn-shaped tip over his prominent ears. He is wearing a belt with two opposite projections.

Excellent state of preservation. Traces of ancient patina.

ORIGIN: at the end of the Pre-Classical period, around 300 BC, three civilizations called “*shaft tomb cultures*” developed along the north-western coast of Mexico. Called Nayarit, Jalisco and Colima they are known for their underground sepulchres reserved for high-ranking figures and composed of one or several funerary chambers reached by a vertical shaft going down to a depth of up to 20 meters. Many of these ritual terracotta figurines reproduced the forms of daily life. This warrior belongs to the « *el arenal brown* » style, guardian of the tomb and defender of the deceased in the afterlife, who is also responsible for repelling evil spirits.

MEASUREMENTS: Height: 27.5 cm (10.8") Width: 13 cm (5.1") Thickness: 14 cm (5.5")

THERMOLUMINESCENCE TEST performed by Laboratory QED which confirms the dating of this piece. Test n° QED1336/FP-0103

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in « *Collecting Masterpieces* », Part one, by Beryl Cavallini, pages 138-139.

Police book registration N°: 1453