

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **A MAJESTIC BRONZE KHMER OF GARUDA CAMBODIA - PERIOD OF ANGKOR VAT (AD 12Th. Cent.)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** Garuda in bronze showing a nice and old green patina. Can be easily recognized thanks to its magnificent bird's head covered with three rows of stylized and incised feathers and with a prominent beak. The large neck wears a necklace of flowers. The very bulging chest highlights the impetuous force of this hybrid monster, the well designed waist line revealing a slenderness according to the Khmer aestheticism. The arms are not represented leaving space for two small Garuda appearing from the left hip.

The intense complexity of the decoration asking for the use of a high technique confirms the probably sacred or aristocratic provenance of this piece.

Khmer bronzes of that size and quality are rare. It might be the element of a ceremonial chariot or a palanquin.

Excellent quality of the bronze and nice crusty green patina.

**ORIGIN:** *Garuda*, a word for "eagle" in Sanskrit, being the mount *vâhana* of Lord Vishnu is a fabulous bird-like creature that appears in both Hindu and Buddhist mythology, Quoted in the Bhagavad-Gita (Ch.10, Verse 30) as "the king of the bird community", he is the enemy of the Nâga serpent race, feeding himself only with snakes.

The birth of Angkor could be set in 802 AD, when the founder of the Khmer Empire, Jayavarman II pronounced himself universal monarch (*chakravartin*) and declared independence from Java. It ends in 1431 AD, when Thai invaders from the kingdom of Ayutthaya sacked Angkor and caused the Khmer elite to migrate to Phnom Penh.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 47,5cm/ 18.701 inches - Width: 24 cm/ 9.449 inches

Height including the base: 57,5cm /22,63 inches

**TEST DE THERMOLUMINESCENCE** by Qed Laboratory Numb. 1415FB-0226

**PASSEPORT CULTUREL** delivered by the Ministère Français de la Culture num. 166874

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** published in the book " *Collecting Masterpieces* " Part One by Beryl Cavallini, at pages 120/121

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