

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### HEAD OF AN IDOL

PAKISTAN - CHARSADDA (3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> cent. BC)

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** head of a fertility goddess in red moulded clay, front facing with a symmetrical decoration typical of the archaic period. The pellet eyes have been added and split to represent eyelids, according to the local habit. Abundant hairstyle made of delicately palletized flowery patterns. The goddess is also adorned with large earrings and a chiselled necklace.

**ORIGIN:** the site Charsadda, whose archaeological excavations date back to 1400 BC, is located in Pakistan at the confluence of the Swat valley and several tributaries of the Kabul River. Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Achaemenid presence allowed the development of a civilisation of iron, as well as an easily recognizable ceramic. It was there that the capital of Gandhara was established between the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD under the name *Pushkalavati*, meaning “city of the lotus”. The ruins of the site include several stupas and two different places of occupation. The city was rebuilt by the Greeks of Bactria, then becoming Peucela. The worship of a fertility goddess is linked.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 4.4 cm (1.7”) Mounted on a custom made stand not included in the measurements.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** the Victoria and Albert Museum displayed a similar goddess, Room 47b, case 4, reference n° IM.29-1939. It is dated more or less than 100 years around our era.

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