

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

THE GODDESS OF ELOQUENCE CHINA - SONG DYNASTY (AD 960 -1279)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Sculpture in an attractive dark pink sandstone showing traces of an ancient white paint. The goddess has a swan with unfurled wings for a mount. The dress is nicely designed with a large cloud shaped collar typical of the Song period, and she wears a diadem. The depiction is harmonious. A rectangular hollow has been carved in her back, where little prayer scrolls could be placed, according to the Buddhist practice of consecrating statues representing divinities.

Excellent state of preservation.

ORIGIN: This divinity with a swan is a legacy of the goddess Sarasvati in Hindu mythology. She becomes the goddess of wisdom and knowledge, and she is the patron of arts. She revealed to men writing and language. Originally a “river goddess”, she is associated with all things that flow: water, poetic words and music. The swan as a goddess vehicle symbolises the purity of knowledge, which contributes to the common good. The presence of a mound of clouds arranged in a pyramid shape relief, and the collar of the dress in the shape of clouds constitute a reference to the Taoist cult of nature.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 47 cm / 18,50”

CERTIFICATE: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 158964, allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in « *collecting Masterpieces-Part one* », by Beryl Cavallini, pages 12 and 13.

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