

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE:

JAR WITH SPIRAL DECORATION CHINA - MAJIAOYAO PHASE (3200–2650 B.C.) MACHANG TYPE (ca. 2350–2050 B.C.)

MATERIAL AND METHOD: pinkish terracotta jar with two small handles, decorated with spirals and brownish red polychrome made of uncooked iron pigments. An exceptional state of preservation. This pottery, descending from a tradition appearing 7000 years earlier, (first experiments in Chinese pottery date back to 10,000 BC) reaches a high level of technique. The earth is built up using a coil pottery method and then decorated with reddish-brown and black-violet patterns made of spirals and a geometrical motif, but also fishnet and frog patterns, testifying to this culture's worship of water.

No visible restorations to the terracotta.

ORIGIN: the Neolithic culture of Machiayao started developing in the northwest of China between 3300 and 2050 BC. The people belonging to this culture were the direct ancestors of the Han people. They lived in earthen and wood houses, cultivated millet, raised dogs and pigs and practiced cremation. They spoke a language at the origins of the Sino-Tibetan language still used today in southern China.

DATING the Machiayao culture that was discovered in 1926 remains close to the Yangshao culture. It is classified by the Chinese as the most important archaeological discovery among ten prestigious sites.

MEASUREMENTS: Height: 32.5 cm (12.8") - Diameter: 32.5 cm (12.8")

THERMOLUMINESCENT TEST by laboratory Kotalla which confirms the dating. Test n° 04141206.

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MUSEOGRAPHY: a similar piece is exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, inv. 29.1038. and Metropolitan Museum accession number 1994.605.126

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in *Collecting Masterpieces Part one*, by beryl cavallini, at pages 70/71.

N°: 006