

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

IMPRESSIVE BUDDHA SUKHOTHAI KINGDOM (AD 1238-1438)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: magnificent head of Buddha from the Sukhothai period, worked in the round, using the lost wax method. The face presents a perfect oval shape, with plump cheeks, the eyelids half closed, the face particularly serene and martial at the same time. The line of the hairdo made of different rows of coiled curls designs a V at the base of the hair. The same line is elegantly designed by the eyebrows' arches that join together outlining the ridge of the nose, long, narrow and hooked. The mouth with plump lips shows a barely perceptible smile. The beauty lines of the neck are another divine attribute as well as the elongated ears that symbolize the roads of knowledge. The flame on the top of the skull, called “*unisha*”, is a characteristic of Sukhothai aesthetics referring to the light emanating from Buddha.

Excellent state of preservation, the patina is ancient and excellent

ORIGIN: Sukhotai, meaning “dawn of happiness”, was the capital of the first Thai kingdom, from the 13th century AD until the 15th. century. when Thai people, after having been under Khmer domination decided to rebel to gain their independence. They developed their own culture and established Buddhism as an official religion. Its influence reached what is today Laos, the Andaman sea to the West and the Malaysian peninsula in the South. In 1438, the Thai Kingdom was conquered and integrated into the new Ayutthaya kingdom.

Sukhothai is also well known for its remarkable religious architecture: the city with a regular rectangular layout is classified as a Unesco heritage site for its many temples and stupas.

DIMENSIONS: Height without base: 56,5 cm/ 22,24 ”-Width: 25 cm/ 9,84”

Height including the base: 86,5cm/ 34,05” - Thickness: 26,5 cm / 10,43”

MUSEOGRAPHY: a very similar piece is presented in Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, South-East Asia department - Section 10 - Element 45. And in the British Museum reference n° 1880.1002, section G33/Ind/case 49.

PASSEPORT for exportation delivered by the French Ministry of culture N° 166724.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in “Collecting Masterpieces, part One” by Beryl Cavallini at pages 150/151

Police book registration N°: 1472