

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **WHITE DANCER IN TERRACOTTA CHINA - HAN DYNASTY (206 BC – AD 220)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** dancer in dark grey terracotta covered with white slip, some of the details being painted in red and black. Very clean and dynamic movement. Kimono dress composed of three collars and made of a heavy woollen fabric tied around the waist and with the pleats underlined with red. The very long sleeves hiding the hands add to the wide movements of the dancing. The flat head has a knotted hairstyle typical of the period, with a middle parting as a division. The facial features are delicately painted. Excellent preservation overall. Possible ancient repair.

**ORIGIN:** Dance had a strong symbolical dimension in ancient China. It was used to celebrate various events such as military victories, mourning or weddings. Under the Han dynasty, it could be practised either by men or by women, to correspond with the teaching of Confucius who did not permit contact between men and women in public areas. The rhythm and the movements of the body recall the cycles of life. The arms in long sleeves design ellipses and circles imitating the perpetual movement of life. Each pause was considered as a new beginning.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 46 cm / 18.11" – Length: 36 cm / 14.17"

**TEST:** thermoluminescent test by laboratory Qed n° QED1415/FC-0210 confirms the dating.

**CULTURAL PASSPORT** issued by the French Ministry of Culture n°191561.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a similar piece is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York - Collection Charlotte C. and John C Weber. (192.165.19)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** published in "Collecting Masterpieces" Part One by Beryl Cavallini at pages 184/185.

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