

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

THE PRINCE'S CHARIOT DRAWN BY RAMS GRECO - BUDDHIST ART - GANDHÂRA (1st - 4th century)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Stele of grey schist sculpted in high-relief. A wooden chariot bearing a figure, today partly missing is drawn by two rams with geometric design shaved onto them. Five figures dressed in long togas and wearing buddhist chignon surround the chariot holding in their hands devotional elements. A sixth figure resembling the bodhisattva Shakyamuni is standing and holds the reins. He wears a turban and precious stones as well as necklaces and earrings, distinguishing him from the other figures and showing his princely birth.

ORIGIN: Shakyamuni is adorned with the attributes of the king also called *Chakravatin* or universal monarch. The Greco-Buddhist art of the Ghandhâra, a region straddling Pakistan and Afghanistan, is quite singular. The region was Hellenized by the garrisons of Macedonian soldiers who had followed Alexander the Great in his Asian conquests and who, in marrying the native women, gave birth to a cosmopolitan society in which the religions and traditions coming from India mixed with those from Greece.

DIMENSIONS: Height without the base: 22.6cm (8,89") - Width: 27,5cm (10,82")
Height including the base : 30,5cm (12")

CULTURAL PASSPORT issued by the French Ministry of Culture, n°167164.

MUSEOGRAPHY: - A very similar relief is exhibited at the museum of Peshawar.

- The British Museum presents a piece with very similar rams showing this particular design in the wool.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in "Collecting Masterpieces-Part One" by Beryl Cavallini at pages 152

Police book registration N°: 1592