

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

SHIVA HEAD WITH A HIGH CHIGNON KHMER - ANGKOR VAT (AD 12th century)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Head of Shiva sculpted in beige sandstone. He is wearing a high chignon held by a string of pearls and a finely wrought diadem. The face is oval and jowly, the closed eyelids slightly prominent, with a wide nose and fleshy lips. The ears have distended lobes still pierced from the wearing of the heavy princely earrings. The cylinder-shaped acetic chignon or *jatamukuta* is a legacy of the pre-Angkor Shivaite hairdos. The neck shawl is made up of hanging braids. The diadem or *kiritamukuta* ends in a knot placed at the back of the head and, as can be seen in many sculptures of Angkor Wat, it is composed of rows of petals, beadwork, flowers and floral stems. The incised lines at the base of the neck are beauty pleats.

Many signs of erosion and scratches, however good state of preservation.

ORIGIN: Under most of the reigns in the Angkor period, Shivaïsm was the state religion. The anthropomorphic images of the god were very numerous at the time, while they resulted instead quite rare in the pre-Angkor period. Tradition placed Shiva as the most venerated god of Angkor Vat, although the site had been created in honour of Vishnu. Nonetheless it has to be noted that during the different reigns, all worship was respected with an equal faith.

DIMENSIONS: Height without the base: 25 cm (9,84")

Height including the base: 37,5cm (14,76")

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of culture numb. 169727.

Police book registration N°: 1615