

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

HIGH RELIEF OF A DANCING APSARA CAMBODIA KHMER - ANGKOR WAT (AD 13th century)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: High relief of a triangular lintel of a shrine made of a beige sandstone. Flat-bottomed. The dancing *Apsara* is in a profuse arch, ending in a motif of a cruciform flower. According to the customs of representation, her bare chest is adorned with many necklaces and she wears a double row of bracelets on each arm as well as anklets on each leg. The sarong clearly reveals her legs. This high relief stone was most probably part of the decoration of a niche or an antefix that adorned possibly the sides or the roof of a Khmer temple.

Excellent state of preservation. Dark colour of the stone due to age. Some signs of erosion and scratches.

ORIGIN: The *Apsaras* are feminine creatures usually represented as celestial nymphs or demi-goddesses pertaining to the Buddhist religion. Always showing a beautiful Melanesian type of beauty, they have to be fine and gracious. The Sanskrit word *Apsara* means “*women who walks on water*” as they were born during the churning of the sea of milk. Emerging from the waters, they seduced men to whom they pass on immortality and men that spurn them became mad. They are the daughters of Sattwa and the wives of *gandharvas*, who are men-horses that sing and play music.

An old custom considered caressing the statues of *Apsaras* as a religious duty. One could say they are the equivalent of the *Nereids* of Greek mythology.

DIMENSIONS: Height without the base: 32,5cm (12,79”) - Width: 23cm (9,05”)
Height including the base : 38cm (14,96”)

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of culture numb. 167937.

Police book registration N°: 1616