

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **TAOTIE IN GILDED BRONZE CHINA – HAN DYNASTY (206 BC – AD 220)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** decorative bronze element intended to be applied as decoration to a vase or door, gilded on its face and bearing traces of green patina from excavation on its reverse.

This piece was manufactured using the lost wax method. The *taotie* holds a ring in its mouth. This type of representation was at that time typically affixed onto vases to serve as the gripping element.

Excellent state of preservation.

**ORIGIN:** *taotie* are mythical representation and ornament used to ward off evil spirits, which appeared as early as the Zhou dynasty. It is still unclear whether these creatures are religious symbols or refer to clans or embody a fantastic animal that links man to the world of spirits. In every case, this ferocious beast certainly evokes both mystery and beauty.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 12 cm (4.7")

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a similar piece is exhibited at the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United-States, reference n°F1917,1

Police book registration N°: 1758