

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **HEAD OF A PRINCESS IN STUCCO GANDHĀRA (AD 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century AD)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** hollow head of a female, molded in fine grain, light ivory beige stucco. The high chignon bun of the figure is held up by a crown that is surmounted with a bejeweled tuft. The ears lobes are lengthened as a result of wearing opulent jewels, a common sign of belonging to the aristocracy. The eyes are wide open with a straight nose, well defined eyebrows and small mouth with hemmed lips. Prominent eyes are a characteristic feature of the regional style. The statuary technique of stucco was developed in Greco-Roman workshops in Alexandria. It involved the application of a succession of layers with an increasingly thin pressure and slow setting, a skill which required real expertise.

This head derives from a low relief sculpture that once leaned against a temple wall. It must have been at a three-quarter angle as the face is asymmetrical.

Excellent state of preservation. Some missing fragments, a sign of erosion. Presence of patina from excavation.

**ORIGIN:** Gandhāra corresponds to present-day Pakistan and southern Afghanistan. By extending his territory to the Indus valley, Alexander the Great left a technical and stylistic tradition of Greek art in the service of Buddhist spirituality. This highly recognizable regional style reached its peak during the reign of the Kushans.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height without the base: 21cm (8.2”) – Width: 11 cm (4.3”).  
Height including the base: 31cm (12,20”)

Police book registration N°: 1871