

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

FIGURE OF COURT LADY TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Lady of the court in moulded, fine clay terracotta covered in a light slip with polychrome traces. Her face has fine features lost in a mass of rouged flesh and her hair is in a high chignon called “*half wy back*”. Her dress is ample with deeply incised folds; over it she wears a tight-fitting bustier with a low neckline and short sleeves called *banbi*. She is slightly swaying, arms folded and the hands hidden by the long sleeves of the dress. Her long dress, flaring near the bottom, reveals pointed shoes with the tip curved up, very fashionable at court during the last quarter of the 7th century.

ORIGIN : The emperor Xuanzong (712-756 AD) had as his favourite a buxom woman. At that time feminine images of this type started to multiply. The Tangs idealized voluptuous women, highlighting their well-developed curves. The dress adds to this aesthetic, mostly generous, it is of a Hufu type, of “barbarian” origins and coming from the western borders of the Silk Road.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 44 cm / 17.322 inches – Width: 18 cm / 7.086 inches –

TEST: thermoluminescent test by laboratory Kotalla Numb. 04031011 confirms the dating.

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture Number 129434, allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

MUSEOGRAPHY: a similar piece is on show at the National Palace Museum Taipei, Taiwan, gift from Mr. Tsui Tsin – Tsong.

Police book registration N°: 658