

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **GILDED BRONZE BODHISATTVA USHNISHAVIJAYA TIBET (AD 15<sup>th</sup> - 16th century)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** Bronze statuette of a Bodhisattva Ushnishavijaya, created using lost wax casting and gilded with gold leaf. The gold was extracted directly from the major goldmines of the Tibetan Plateau which have been in use since the Middle Ages. The statuette has three faces and eight arms. Each hand displays a different mudra. In Buddhist iconography the gestures of the Buddha and the Bodhisattvas are codified and known as 'mudras', each one being charged with mystical significance. The female figure depicted is young, graceful and bedecked with jewellery.

Excellent state of preservation.

**ORIGIN:** Ushnishavijaya is one of the three divinities associated with long life in the Tibetan pantheon, along with Alitayus and White Tara. She is an emanation of the Vairocana Buddha. Popular wisdom often refers to her as the 'mother of all Buddhas. Like all divinities, she is shown on a base shaped like a lotus flower. She owes her name to the *ushnisha*, a Sanskrit word meaning 'diadem'. In Buddhism, this is one of the 32 marks of the Enlightened. In Buddhist art, this cranial protuberance is the principal characteristic of representations of the Buddha.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height 10 cm /3,93'' - Width: 7 cm/2,75''

**CULTURAL PASSPORT:** issued by the French Ministry of Culture N° 165163 allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** A similar piece is exhibited at the Rubin Foundation in New York. Ref. N°5953.

Police book registration n°: 804