

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **MAJESTIC PRANCING HORSE CHINA – TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** lovely terracotta horse of a very large size in the *prancing* stance of a dancing horse with one lifted leg. The horse is white with decorations including a saddle which is painted orange. Visible signs of refined workmanship in the trimmings on the rump and elegant, long mane. The face is particularly thin and beautifully molded with nostrils in relief, the mouth is open suggesting teeth and visible signs of the full energy of this animal.

Good state of preservation, probable restorations. Remains of earth from excavation.

**ORIGIN:** the representation of the horse is one domain in which the aesthetics of the Tang reaches its highest most quality. The horse is elegant and racy, it looks smart and active and the most realistic representations of these beautiful animals were a must. The Tang imported many horses from the western plains of Mongolia, thanks to the contact they established with the Uighurs. A horse with its leg lifted is a parade horse, we know that towards the end of the Tang Dynasty, the Emperor's studs counted in no less than 700 000. These were used for court, but also in military conquests.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 67 cm (26.3") – Length: 77 cm (30.3")

**TEST OF THERMOLUMINESCENCE:** performed by QED Laboratory, which confirms the dating of this piece. Test n° QED1725/FC-0212.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a very similar but smaller horse is part of the Metropolitan Museum collection in New York, donated by E. Bowen, 1967 accession number 67.62.1.

Police book registration N°: 1802