



Burma, Konbaung Dynasty (1752 - 1885), Large Buddha Head, Lacquered And Gilded Marble



7 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Marble

Width : 25.5 cm hors socle

Height : 43 cm hors socle

Description

Important marble head of the shakya muni Buddha, Burma, Mandalay style, Konbaung dynasty (1752 - 1885), 19th Century. The youthful-looking face, imbued with great gentleness, is inscribed in an oval shape. It is distinguished by fine, curved superciliary arches outlined in black, framing a small, slightly raised urna relief. The half-closed, downward-facing eyes feature thick eyelids with a thin black border. The pupils, also underlined, reflect a meditative attitude of inwardness and serenity, detached from earthly contingencies. The particular treatment of the eyes is characteristic of the Mandalay style. Called kye min ye thauk (literally 'the king of birds drinking water'), they feature a tapered shape, tapering towards the ends in a fluid movement reminiscent of a beak or stretched line.

Dealer

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This design captures a lowered gaze with sharp, delicate contours, reinforcing expression of calm. Beyond its aesthetic effect, this shape conveys a state of deep meditation and an orientation towards the interior rather than the world. It also expresses gentleness and compassion, while at the same time is part of a general aesthetic of serenity typical of Burmese Buddhist representations of Mandalay. The nose, fine and straight, with slightly dilated nostrils, surmounts a mouth. The forehead is adorned with a wide band embellished with mirrored floral motifs. This ornament, called thin kyit, appears in Buddhist image sculpture in the form of a thin line during the Ava period (1364-1527), before gradually widening over time. Placed between the face and hair, it symbolically marks the Buddha's state of enlightenment and contributes to the image's preciousness and devotional dimension. They decorate it with elaborate floral motifs and precious stones, notably rubies, to exalt the splendor of the Buddha and express their devotion. The top of the skull is topped with a broad, high ushnisha, while the arched ears feature distended lobes, symbols of the Buddha's past. The Mandalay style, which developed between the end of the 18th century and 19th centuries in the eponymous region, corresponds to the apogee of Burmese court art under the Konbaung dynasty (1752-1885). It is part of a tradition closely linked to Theravada Buddhism and an idealized representation of the Buddha. He developed an idealized representation of the Buddha, in which the image is not a portrait, but a codified figuration of spiritual perfection. The face, oval and smooth, expresses a form of mastered abstraction: softened features, fine eyebrows, a straight nose and a discreet smile. A discreet smile makes up a figure detached from individuality. The eyes, half-closed and

turned inward, express a state of deep meditation and serenity, reinforcing the idea of a spiritual presence rather than a human reality. In contrast to Ava's earlier, more expressive and naturalistic style, the Mandalay style marks a shift towards a more strictly codified aesthetic.

The figure becomes less narrative and more iconic, oriented towards a religious ideal of stability and harmony. The use of marble for sculpting Buddhist images did not really begin to develop until the Ava period (1287-1752). In this context, as powerful Buddhist kingdoms succeeded each other in Ava, Amarapura and then Mandalay. Sagyin, a village located north of Mandalay was renowned for the exceptional quality of its marble and gradually established itself as the main extraction center. With the growing importance of marble in Buddhist material culture in Burma, the so-called Mandalay style emerged from the late 18th century onwards. Mandalay style in the creation of images of the Buddha. Marble with gilding and lacquer, glass inlaid. Usage wear, visible accidents. 43 x 25.5 cm excluding base. Former collection of Mr. B., aesthete and great collector of Asian art. Contact us: culturesetcivilisations@orange.fr