

# Galerie Hioco

## Seated Buddha – Sri Lanka (P577)



### What do we like in this sculpture?

- The meticulousness of the bronze work and the delicately chiselled details.
- The delicate modelling of the flesh.
- Its remarkable state of preservation: the gilding has been preserved despite the passage of time.



## I. Detailed description

### **Seated Buddha (P577)**

Gilded bronze

Śrī Laṅkā

10th century, late second Anurādhapura period (459-993)

H: 8 cm or 3 1/8 in

### **Typical iconography of the southern Buddhist world**

Buddha Śākyamuni - the historical Buddha - is depicted here seated in meditation with his hands in his lap (dhyāna mudrā). He is standing in the so-called noble attitude (vīrāsana), with his legs simply crossed over each other, leaving the sole of his left foot visible. From the top of his skull emerges the flame (siraspata) which attests to his spiritual transcendence. The monastic garment, which is smooth here, covers only his left shoulder, and a section of fabric highlighted by fine incisions falls to the waist and very low down on the back. A split hemline elegantly borders the garment at the chest and calves.

### **A characteristic canon of Śrī Laṅkā art**

A perfect example of the Sinhalese Buddha style, this beautiful object shows a perfect balance between stylisation of form and extreme refinement of finish. The face, almost circular, shows the obvious desire to translate individualised features: the small, well-marked eyes, the slightly blunt nose and the fleshy mouth give it a very lively expression. The supple modelling of the torso and the very graphic geometry created by the broad, robust shoulders, the very slim waist and the angular knees are also very pleasing.

### **A work of devotion**

The main subject of sacred iconography, this representation of the Blessed One is part of the exceptional production of small gilded bronzes for votive purposes or for private worship from the end of the second Anurādhapura period (459-993). It fits harmoniously into the series published by Ulrich von Schroeder.



II. Image of the piece – front view



III. Image of the piece – left three-quarter view



IV. Image of the piece – left profile view



V. Image of the piece – back view



VI. Image of the piece – right profile view



VII. Image of the piece – right three-quarter view







## VIII. Provenance: in all transparency!

- This rare Buddha has been in an American private collection since the late 1960s and was published and exhibited in 2003 at the Phoenix Museum of Art in the USA to illustrate the arts of the Śrī Laṅkā.

. We are always very cautious and diligent about the provenance of the artworks we offer. Ensuring the seriousness and reliability of the information given by the former owners is one of our priorities and we then guarantee this origin by engaging our responsibility.

. In order to reinforce this guarantee, we systematically verify that these artworks have not been registered as missing or stolen. As Interpol has granted us the right to directly consult their database of stolen or reported items, we verify by ourselves and issue a certificate attesting to this.

## IX. Condition report: our scientific approach

This sitting Buddha of the Śrī Laṅkā in gilded bronze, dated to the 10th century (late second Anurādhapura period (459-993)) and measuring 8 cm in height, is in a good state of preservation.

The gilding is clearly missing, but this condition is quite logical in view of the age and the ritual and cultural function of the object. The bronze is worn from numerous previous manipulations and there are small pits all over its surface. Rare and very discreet scratches are also visible in places, and more pronounced underneath, at the level of the base of the work. There are deeper scratches on the back of the left arm. Small spots of corrosion are visible, especially in the most recessed parts of the sculpture.

*Please note that since we are not conservators or restorers, it must be understood that any condition report we made is a subjective qualified opinion, even if we do our best efforts. Prospective buyers should inspect the piece to satisfy themselves as to condition.*



## XI. Comparable museum artwork – The British Museum

A seated Buddha belonging to The British Museum's collections :



Object Type : figure

Museum number : 1898,0702.29

Description : Figure (Buddha). In meditation with simple flame in the top of the uṣṇīṣa, in which a red stone is inserted. Cast in a copper alloy and gilded.

Cultures/periods : Anuradhapura

Production date : 9thC

Made in: Sri Lanka

Found/Acquired: Sri Lanka

Materials : bronze, stone, gold

Technique : gilded, inlaid

Height: Height: 13 centimetres

Acquisition date : 1898



## XII. Comparable museum artwork – Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET)

A 9th century seated Buddha in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of New York:



Title: Seated Buddha  
Period: Anuradhapura period  
Date: ca. 9th century  
Culture: Sri Lanka  
Medium: Gilt bronze

Dimensions: H. 5 in. (12.7 cm); W. 4 1/8 in. (10.5 cm); D. 2 1/8 in. (5.4 cm)  
Classification: Sculpture  
Credit Line: Gift of Iuliana and Mark Phillips, 1991  
Accession Number: 1991.458.1



### XIII. Our guarantees: for a serene acquisition!

- More photos will be sent to you on request.
- In case of purchase, we will establish an invoice that you can pay by bank transfer.
- You will receive our certificate of authenticity with the photo of the artwork, its detailed description and the mention of the provenance.
- We will define together the shipping modalities and we will take care of all customs formalities if you live outside of France.
- If you do not like the piece, we give you the possibility to return it to us and we will assist you with the resulting terms and conditions.