

# CAST IRON SCULPTURE



**578 - Very rare cast iron sculpture depicting Buddha Sakyamuni obtained by the lost wax process, damascened with gold and silver - Tibet 1600 - cm. 20,5 – Value € 8.000**

The statue is damascened with gold and silver, the technique to apply the gold and the silver on iron it is very difficult and complicated, only traditional and skilful artists in the past times made this kind of exceptional and rare works.



Nowadays this antique technique is not used anymore because the gold and silver leaves are "hammered" on a filed surface.

In addition the use of Iron in the lost wax process to make a sculpture is and was very hazardous, because the melting iron is not "fluid" and not simple to use as the bronze alloy. The antique cast iron statues are very difficult to find in all Asia and Europe, even Mr. Schroeder in his

famous book "Hindo-Tibetan Bronzes" a (master treatise for collectors) listed very few statues in Iron.

Cast Iron is still a difficult and risky technique because, without a centrifugal machine, it is very difficult to pour the cast i.e. the melted iron and obtain a result without bubbles and

imperfections. In addition to this the melting point of the iron is higher than the melting point of bronze alloy (200C higher).



The statue is still consecrated, the bottom is still 'sealed', certainly with religious relics inside (traditionally mantras and precious gems). The bottom plaque bears a partially gilded Visvajra symbol and also the style of the Visvajra indicates the age of the sculpture.

The Himalayan technique to seal the bottoms of the statues used simple embeddings. The bottom plate was fixed

to the base by specially made channeling and embeddings. No soldering.

The statue is also embellished with artistic engravings all around the dress.

The Measure is cm. 20,5 - The age of the statue falls in the end of Ming dynasty due to the style, to the details of the lotus base and the manner of the gesture rendering and the proportion of the body. The main factor about the Ming dating is mainly the shape of the lotus petals. During the early Ming, Yung Lo, the lotus petal was elongated and also the body was quite slender.



300 years later, during the end of Ming and beginning of Ching dynasty the shape of the lotus was already changed in the style of the lotus of this statue that is a good representative and quite peculiar of the late Ming period.

The casting is perfect. The gesture, design, face, hands, gold decoration, everything is an important work of art of an antique skillful artist. Please look carefully at the pictures.

We have never seen an iron casting sculpture like this. They are very rare.

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