



Hand holding a Ball - 'Mahi'

Item number :9984

Description :

'Mahi', a ball or spherical element (lower right hand); the interpretation of this attribute is much debated. It has been interpreted as a globe representing the earth, 'mahi', (which is questionable since the earth was considered to be flat in Cambodia until recent times). A lotus flower or fruit are other readings. In Vedic literature the lotus was associated with water and creation. "The god Brahma, the Indian god of creation, was born in a lotus (growing from Vishnu's navel), and the lotus became an Indian metaphor for the created world."

(After Nanditha Krishna, *The Art and Iconography of Vishnu-Narayana*, Bombay, 1980, p. 60, cited in Emma Bunker & Douglas Latchford, *Adoration and Glory: the Golden Age of Khmer Art*, Chicago, 2004, p. 56)

- Origin : Cambodia
- Culture, Dynasty, Period: Khmer
- Date :

- 11th Century
- 12th Century
- Height (cm): 13,5
- Stand: This item comes mounted on a custom made metal socle
- Material: Sandstone

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