

Statement from ACM

For immediate release



ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

Asian Civilisations Museum returns an 11th-century bronze sculpture to India



From Left: Mr K.P. Mohandas, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India with Dr Alan Chong, Director of Asian Civilisations Museum witnessing the return of the 11th-century bronze sculpture.

Image Credit: Photo courtesy of Asian Civilisations Museum

Singapore, 6 November 2015 – The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), an institution of the National Heritage Board, returned to Indian authorities an 11th-century bronze sculpture from the Chola dynasty, purchased from the New York dealer Art of the Past today. The sculpture, a religious icon depicting the Hindu goddess Uma, was returned at the Heritage Conservation Centre in Singapore. The Asian Civilisations Museum announced its intention to return the sculpture to India if the work was shown to have been illegally removed from India. In October, ACM communicated to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the High Commission

of India to Singapore its plan to return the bronze sculpture. The museum shared details of its decision in a statement released on 19 October 2015. Enclosed is the link to statement <http://bit.ly/1ZT3fbu>

Alan Chong, director of the ACM said, "The objects on display at the Asian Civilisations Museum tell the rich history of the heritage cultures of Singaporeans. The museum has always striven to acquire objects ethically and legally. Like many museums around the world, we were the unfortunate victims of fraud.

Although it will be much missed in our galleries, the sculpture of the Uma will be returned to India, as it appears to have been illegally removed from that country. ACM has had close relationships with Indian museums and cultural institutions, ranging from a Peranakan exhibition presented at the National Museum Delhi this year to long-term loans from ASI, and we look forward to future collaborations."

High Commission of India said, "We appreciate the return of the statue of Uma Parameshwari by the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) of Singapore. The statue is now on its way back to its rightful place in India.

In the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two countries that marks our bilateral relations, India and Singapore will continue to engage in promoting cooperation in the field of Art, Culture and Heritage, including exchanges between museums for exhibitions, sharing of knowledge and best practices, etc."

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About the Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum is devoted to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans. Founded in 1993 and in its present building by the Singapore River since 2003, the museum traces its roots to the Raffles Museum, founded in the middle of the 19th century. ACM focuses on the many historical connections between the cultures of Asia, and between Asia and the world. Singapore's history as a port city that brought people together from all over the world is used as a means of examining the history of Asia. Special exhibitions bring magnificent objects from around the world to our Singapore audience. Programmes like the annual River Nights encourage visitors to connect more closely with culture and the arts. For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg.

Issued by the Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum is an institution of

