CHINESE

Figure of Maitreya

China, Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

painted wood

74 x 56 x 42 in.

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

1094

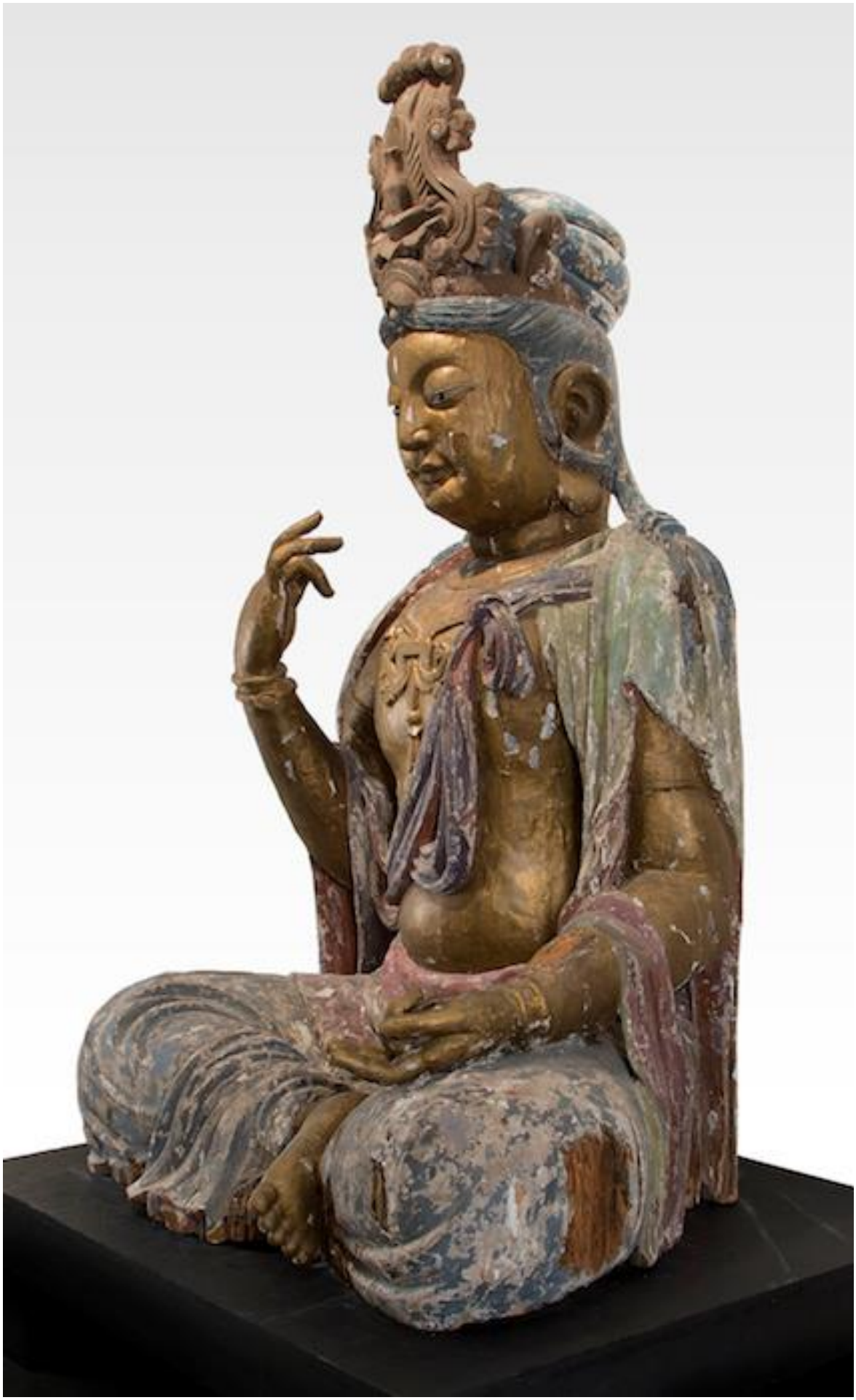
PROVENANCE:

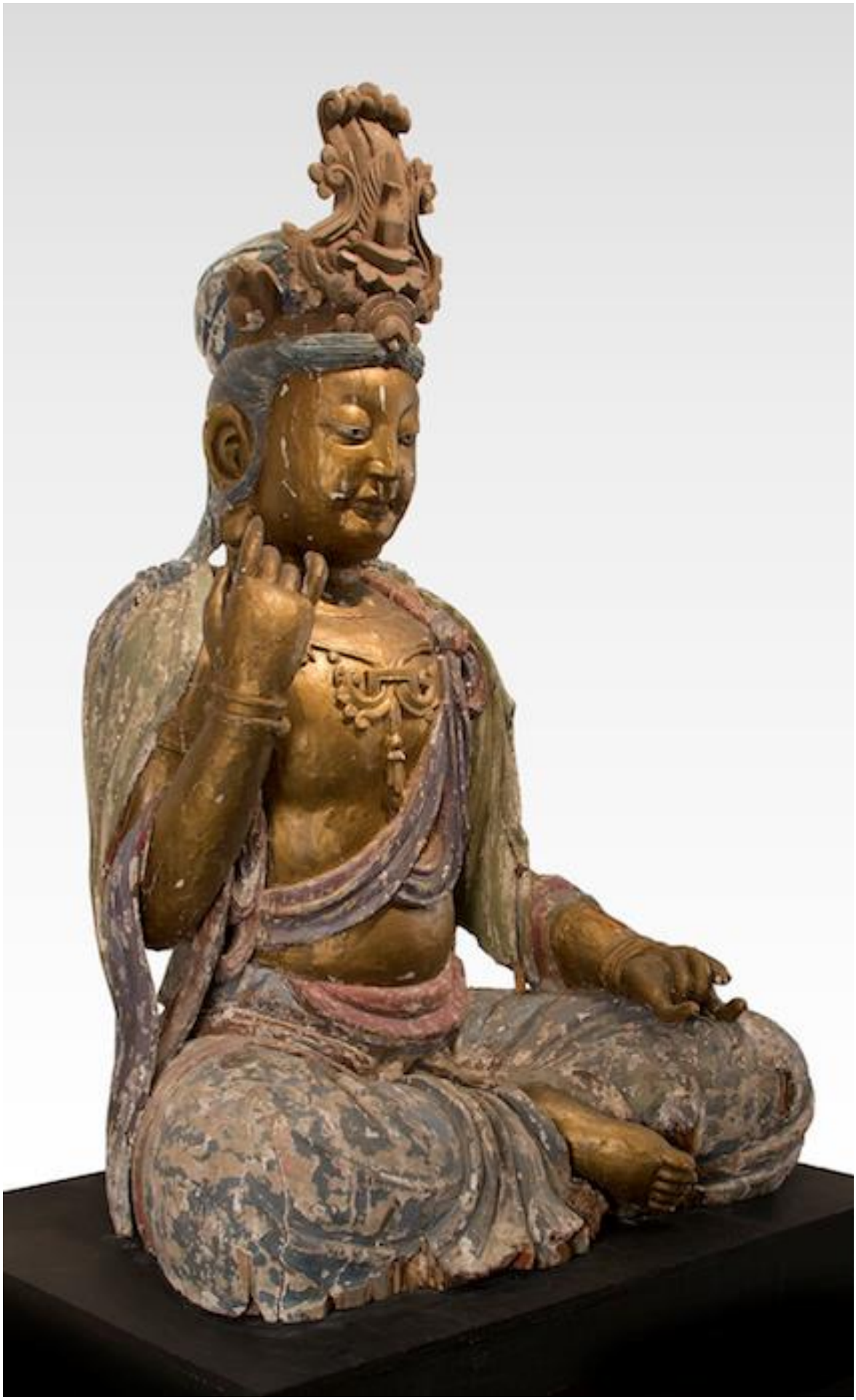
Private Collection, Palm Springs
Heather James Fine Art, Palm Desert and Desert Projects, Palm Springs
Heather James Fine Art

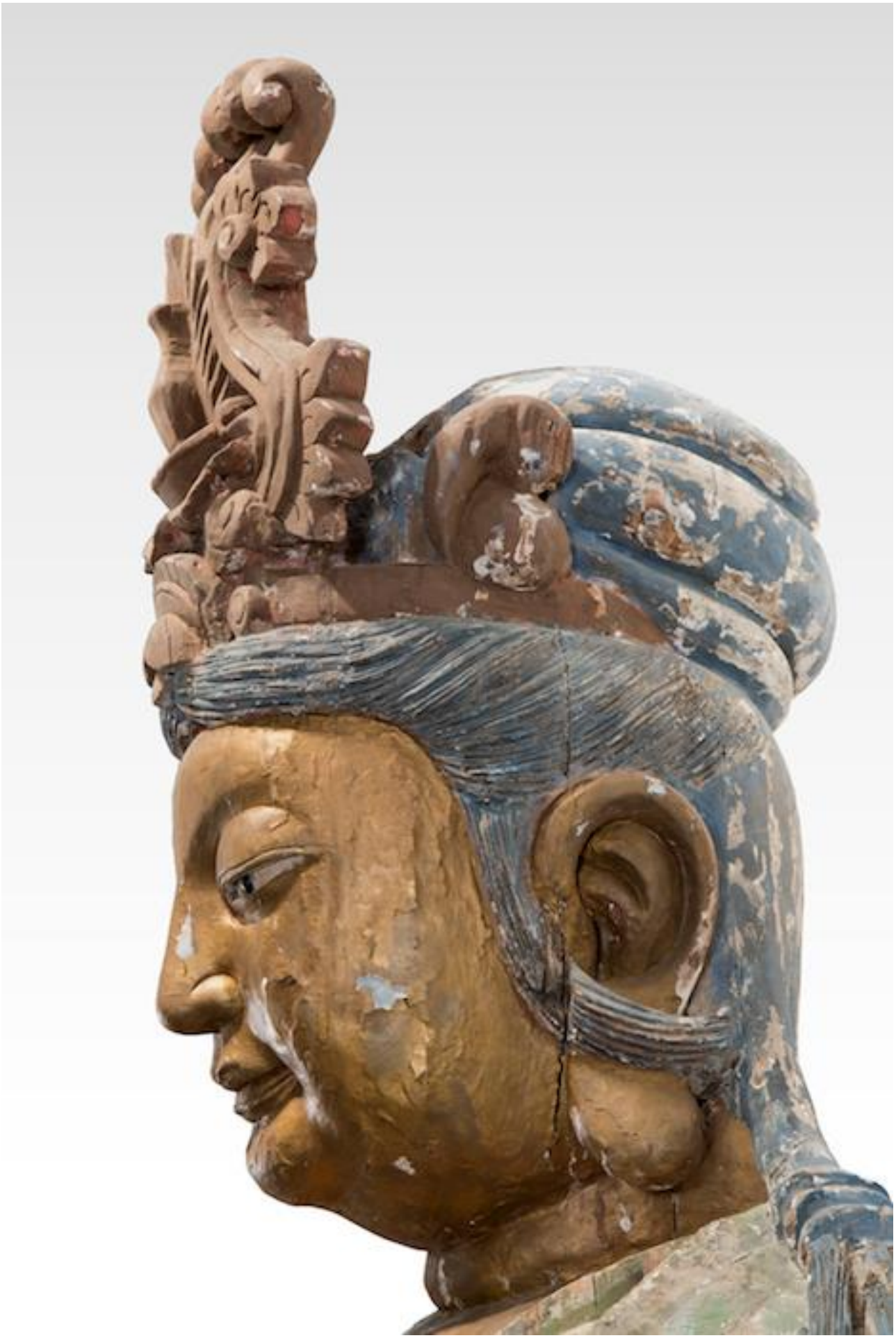
*This sculpture has been Radiocarbon (C14) tested by Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory, Lower Hutt, New Zealand and has been found to be 395 +/ - 43 years old.

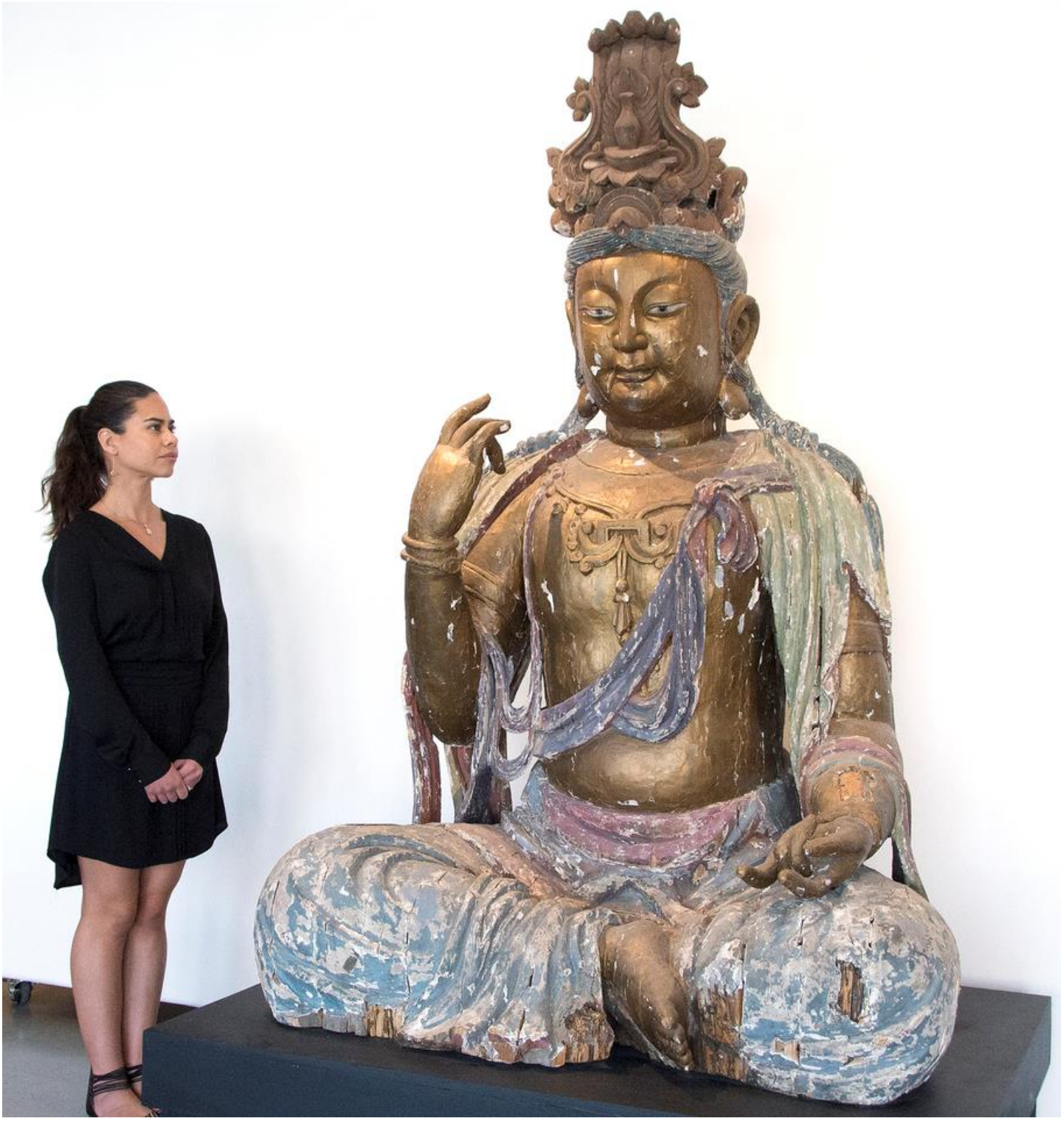
This is Maitreya, the “happy Buddha” of the future, whose sculpture once stood in a Buddhist temple. The Buddha-to-be represents the harbinger of a new age and will be reborn in a period of decline to renew the doctrine of Buddhism.

This 74-inch-tall painted wood figure from China’s Ming dynasty sits in vajrasana, the left hand in varadamudra and the right hand in vitarkamudra, with his feet crossed at the ankles. The position represents reasoning, argumentation, or explanation of a teaching. Dressed in the clothes of either Bhiksu or Indian royalty and adorned with jewelry and high tiara, Maitreya exudes majesty and limitless tolerance and generosity. His images appear in Gandhara, possibly predating those of the Buddha. The prophesy, which appears in the literature of all the major schools of Buddhism, holds that Maitreya’s purpose as the successor to the current Buddha is to achieve complete enlightenment. Physical events will mark his coming of Maitreya, including the shrinking of the oceans so that he can traverse them. It will also bring the unveiling of the true dharma, allowing the birth of a loving new society built on tolerance and health rather than warfare and famine. Not surprisingly, the name Maitreya comes from the Sanskrit word maitri, which means “loving kindness.”









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Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory

Sample Treatment Report

Date Printed: 27-Apr-99

R: 24657 Job: 15801 NZA Number: 9960

Submitter: Coombie y. C. Chui

Sample ID: Body

Description: Wood

Details: Sample consisted of 7 medium sized chunks of wood, outer sides dark brown, light brown stain. White powdery substance visible on some. Microscopic exam revealed sample is quite clean except for on ends. One edge has a white powdery substance and some dark brown staining on. Wood is light brown and wood is quite soft when poking with tweezers. Scraped all sides and skimmed off outer edges with scalpel blade and cut off ends. Ground in ball mill, treated with cellulose extraction and dried in vacuum oven.

Comments:

Fraction dated: Treated wood - cellulose **Stored:** remainder

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Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences Limited

Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory

Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Result

R 24657	**Job** 15801
Description	Wood
Sample ID	Body
Submitter	Coombie y. C. Chui
	M & C Gallery

Radiocarbon Laboratory Reference	NZA 9960
Date measured	19-Apr-99
$\delta^{13}C$	-24.6 ‰

* **Radiocarbon Age**	395 ± 43 BP
$\delta^{14}C$	-52.8 ± 5.1 ‰
$\Delta^{14}C$	-53.6 ± 5.1 ‰
** **Per cent modern**	94.64 ± 0.51

Issued 20/04/99

* Reported age is the conventional radiocarbon age before present (BP)

** Per cent modern means absolute per cent modern relative to the NBS I oxalic acid standard, corrected for decay since 1950.

Age, $\Delta^{14}C$, $\delta^{14}C$ and absolute per cent modern are as defined by Stuiver and Polach, Radiocarbon 19:355-363 (1977)

The reported errors comprise statistical errors in sample and standard determinations, combined in quadrature with a system error component that is based on the analysis of an ongoing series of measurements on oxalic acid secondary standard. For the present result the system error component is conservatively estimated as 0.4% (= ± 32 radiocarbon years).

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RAFTER RADIOCARBON LABORATORY

R24657

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RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION REPORT

NZA 9960 CONVENTIONAL RADIOCARBON AGE 395 ± 43 years BP

INTCAL98_14C
1998 Atmospheric delta 14C and radiocarbon ages from:
Stuiver, M., Reimer, P.J., Bard,E., Beck, J.W., Burr, G.S.,
Hughen, K.A., Kromer, B., McCormac, F.G., v.d. Plicht, J., and
Spurk,M. 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3):1041-1083

CALIBRATED AGE in terms of confidence intervals (Smoothing parameter: 0)

95% confidence interval is 1432 AD to 1532 AD	518 BP to 418 BP
plus 1544 AD to 1636 AD	406 BP to 314 BP
68% confidence interval is 1443 AD to 1516 AD	507 BP to 434 BP
plus 1600 AD to 1616 AD	350 BP to 334 BP