



**Alessandro Neri - Archeologo**

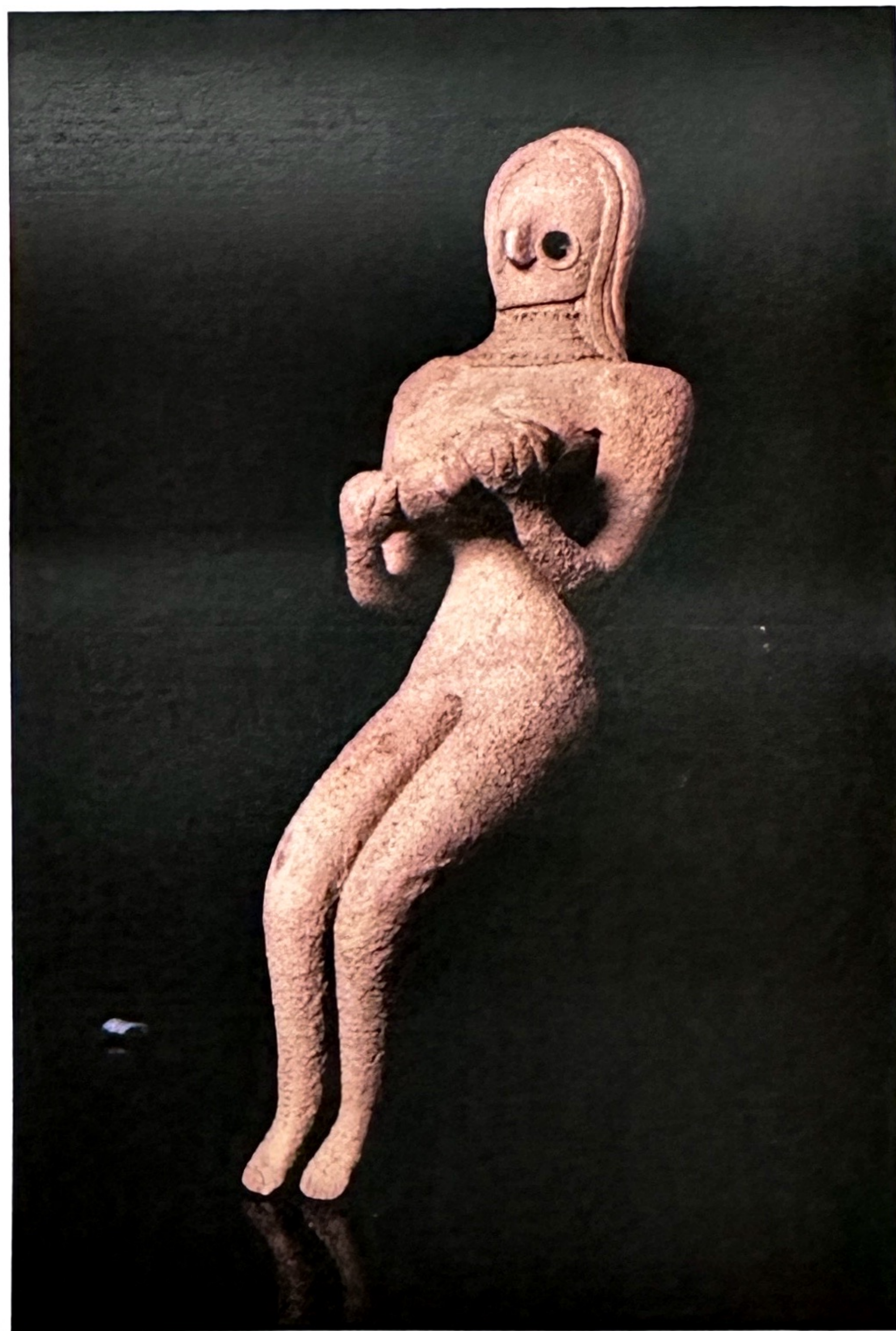
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## **INDUS VALLEY TERRACOTTA STATUETTE OF MOTHER HOLDING THE CHILD**

Ca. 3500 - 2800 BC



### **DESCRIPTION**

An intriguing Indus Valley handmade pottery figure known as a mother goddess shown in a standing position with a dramatically tapered waistline. Her slender arms project from her rounded shoulders. Her abstract, elongated head bears a pair of annular, impressed eyes, a nubbin nose, and a tall forehead framed by her hair. She is holding a baby in front of her. Creamy beige pigment envelops the entirety of this ancient figure. For similar see: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession Number: 2001.305.

Size: 140mm x 45mm; Weight: 60g

Provenance: Prince collection, 1990s-2014; Ex. Pierre Berge. This item has been cleared against the Art Loss Register database and comes with a confirmation letter.

Alessandro Neri – Antiquities Consultant





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## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The Indus Valley Civilization, which thrived between 3300 and 1300 BCE in present-day Pakistan and northwest India, is renowned for its sophisticated urban planning, impressive architecture, and advanced craftsmanship. Among its artistic accomplishments, the creation of terracotta statuettes stands out as a significant cultural artifact, reflecting the society's artistic skills and everyday life. The Indus Valley society was highly organized, featuring well-planned cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. These urban centers were equipped with advanced drainage systems, standardized weights and measures, and a high degree of social organization. The populace was involved in various crafts, including bead making, pottery, and metallurgy, showcasing a rich material culture. Terracotta statuettes, commonly found in both residential and public areas, provide valuable insights into the daily lives, beliefs, and aesthetics of the Indus Valley people. These small, fired clay figurines were typically handcrafted, although some may have been created using simple molds. The statuettes depict a variety of subjects, including animals, deities, and human figures. Notable examples include female figurines, often interpreted as mother goddesses, suggesting a potential role in religious or fertility rituals. The intricate craftsmanship of these statuettes indicates a high level of skill among the artisans. The figures often showcase elaborate hairstyles, jewelry, and clothing, shedding light on the society's fashion and adornment practices. The use of terracotta, a readily available and versatile material, allowed for the widespread production and distribution of these figurines throughout the Indus Valley. The production of terracotta statuettes in the Indus Valley Civilization not only demonstrates the artistic capabilities of the people but also sheds light on their social and cultural dynamics. These artifacts provide an insight into the spiritual life, social structure, and daily activities of one of the world's earliest urban societies, underscoring the significance of art and craftsmanship in their cultural heritage.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Kenoyer, Jonathan Mark. *Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization*. Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Possehl, Gregory L. *The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective*. Rowman Altamira, 2002.
- Wright, Rita P. *The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.





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### **STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

Based on my knowledge acquired through university studies and professional experience, I hereby declare that the object visually examined and certified by this document in terms of its stylistic characteristics, manufacturing techniques, and the patina developed as a result of its residence in the subsoil is **authentic**.

**Dott. Alessandro Neri**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alessandro Neri', written in a cursive, flowing style.