

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**21 April 2017**

The National Gallery of Australia today confirmed that four sculptures in its collection have been reported as stolen by the Idol Wing of Tamil Nadu Police.

The Indian High Commission advised the NGA that these works are subject to investigations. The works have previously been identified by the NGA as having suspect or insufficiently documented provenance and are included in its Asian Art Provenance Research Project.

- ***Pair of door guardians [dvarapala]*** 15th century, basalt, Vijayanagar dynasty from Tamil Nadu, India. Purchased from Art of the Past (Subhash Kapoor), 2005.
- ***The dancing child-saint Sambandar*** 12th century, bronze, Chola dynasty (9th–13th centuries) from Tamil Nadu, India. Purchased from Art of the Past, New York, 2005.
- ***The sacred bull Nandi, vehicle of Shiva*** 11–12th century, granite, Chola dynasty from Tamil Nadu, India. Purchased from Carlton Rochell, New York, 2009.
- ***Trident with auspicious Kali [bhadrakali]*** 11th century, bronze, Chola dynasty from Tamil Nadu, India. Purchased from Carlton Rochell, New York, 2006.

The NGA continues to discuss identification and provenance issues with the Indian High Commission regarding these sculptures. We remain committed to following our new protocols on dealing with provenance issues in relation to the collection of Asian antiquities.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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