

## 2 THE FOSSILIZED TIP OF A UNICORN'S HORN

*Probably Morocco, 350 million years ago  
Size of stone panel: 52 x 32 cm,  
Ormolu frame*



It is curious how the unicorn-deniers inevitably attribute the horns from different eras to sea-creatures: usually the narwhal, or in this case a sea-shell. In search of more information, I consulted the expert on extinct species, Errol Fuller, who replied thus: 'It looks to me (I can't be entirely sure from the photo – so I'd need to see it) like a slice from a fossil *Othoceras* – a very ancient creature that lived (off the top of my head) about 350 million years ago. These fossils are sometimes found in Morocco.' Of course Errol is probably right, but I prefer to think there were unicorns in Morocco long before *Homo sapiens* was around, and unaffected by whether we were going to believe in them, or not.

*Provenance:* Jean-Claude Ciancimino, London