



Canopy of a Mahakala Yantra

Date

18th–19th century

Medium

Pigments on cloth

Description

This painting, designed to hang from the ceiling, is a large yantra specifically used in rituals for protection of person, family, or community. The backdrop of flayed human skin indicates that the type of protection being summoned is extremely fierce. The heart of the yantra is composed of two red interlocked triangles with inscriptions. In some contexts, for purposes of protection, a person's name is written at the center of the yantra.

Dimensions

32 3/4 × 28 1/2 in.