



The Demoness of Tibet

Date

Early 20th century

Medium

Pigments on cloth

Description

This map illustrates a popular Tibetan mytho-historical narrative. Tibet is represented by a collection of Buddhist monuments that were constructed in strategic locations to pin down and tame a demoness who interfered with the establishment of Buddhism in the seventh century. The demoness is set in a heavenly landscape with her supine figure stretched between cosmic mountain ranges. Lhasa and its central temple, the Jokhang, are positioned at the heart of the demoness, which actively establishes Lhasa as the heart and center of Tibet. This temple-founding narrative promotes political and social order concentrated in the capital of Lhasa and its major Buddhist institutions.

Dimensions

16 3/8 × 24 3/4 in. (estimated)