



## Medicine Buddha (Bhaishajyia guru, Menla)

### Date

18th century

### Medium

Copper alloy

### Description

This smoothly modelled sculpture shows the Medicine Buddha on a high lotus seat with both upward and downward facing petals and a beaded edge. He holds a medicinal Myrobalan fruit in his right hand and a bowl with nectar in his left. Tibetan Buddhism was first introduced to Mongolia in the thirteenth century by Buddhist teachers who were patronized by Qubilai Khan

(1215–1294), the grandson of Chingghis Khan and an emperor of China. Mongolians traditionally held shamanistic beliefs, but between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries many incorporated Buddhism into their belief systems. Similarly, Tibetan medicine was integrated with the Mongolian indigenous healing practices and is widely practiced today.

### Dimensions

7 1/8 × 5 1/4 × 3 15/16 in.