



## Protective Astrological Chart

### Date

late 18th or early 19th century

### Medium

Pigments on cloth

### Description

This Tibetan astrological chart is an auspicious talisman and an instructional tool that is believed to bring good fortune to all those who see, display, or possess it. Such charts can often be found hanging on the walls of Tibetan houses and are commonly engraved on amulets worn or carried on one's person. The primary figure at the bottom center is a tortoise, a metaphor for creation. On the tortoise's belly are concentric circles that illustrate, from the inside out, the nine magic numbers (sme ba dgu), the eight trigrams (spar kha bryad), and the twelve animals

of the zodiac, which, combined with the five elements, form the sixty-year cycle of the Tibetan calendar. Along the sides are rows of sigils, each representing a negative spirit. These symbols bind those spirits in a contract agreeing to not to harm the displayer of the image. Along the top, Indian deities, planetary deities, and important stars are shown guarding against maladies like epilepsy.

### Dimensions

49 1/4 × 36 1/4 × 2 1/4 in.