



Panjaranatha Mahakala

Date

15th century

Medium

Stone with pigments

Description

Black stone is the most fitting material for depictions of Mahakala, the “Great Black One.” In this finely carved early Tibetan example the bulky wrathful deity is squatting on a lotus pedestal with wide petals. His head and body are massive and his legs extremely muscular. The magic wooden gong supported by both arms is extremely prominent. Behind the head a scarf forms an elegant bow, a feature that is characteristic of early depictions of wrathful deities with strong Nepalese connections. Its shape resonates well with the busy border of flames.

Dimensions

10 1/8 × 7 1/8 × 4 1/8 in. (Estimate - Base/Mout size: TBD)