



Sarvavid Vairochana Mandala

Date

17th century

Medium

Pigments on cloth

Description

A mandala depicts the palace of a deity populated by his or her retinue. In its most basic form it is a circle inside a square with the main deity at its center. Here Sarvavid Vairochana, white with four faces, is seated in a meditation posture. He is surrounded at the cardinal directions by four buddhas that are specific to this mandala. Although many practices focused on Vairochana were eventually eclipsed in importance by those of other deities, practices related to the All-Knowing Buddha

Vairochana have maintained their popularity. This is because of the functional nature of the rituals, which are often used in funerary and consecration ceremonies.

Dimensions

46 3/8 × 38 3/4 × 2 1/4 in. (estimated)