

Basic Detail Report



for which Newari craftsman are famous.

Dimensions

15 1/4 × 10 1/2 × 4 in.

Kaumari

Date

17th or 18th century

Medium

Gilt copper alloy with semiprecious stone inlays

Description

The Kathmandu Valley is famous for the custom of worshipping a chosen young girl as the goddess Kumari. Her devotees believe she is the same as the adult goddess Kaumari, who assisted Durga in her fight with a demon (see for instance C2005.16.11). Here the four-armed youthful goddess stands in a militant posture. She sprinkles alcohol from the cup she holds as an act of blessing. This sculpture is a magnificent example of repoussé, a technique in which three-dimensional forms are hammered from a flat sheet of copper. Along with lost-wax casting, it is one of the two metalworking techniques