



Nyima Oser, One of the Eight Manifestations of Padmasambhava

Date

18th century

Medium

Gilt copper alloy

Description

This sculpture portrays Padmasambhava, “Precious Teacher” (Tibetan: Guru Rinpoche), in one of his eight manifestations known as Rays of the Sun (Tibetan: Nyima Oser). According to his legendary life story, for five years Padmasambhava practiced in a charnel ground, a gruesome place where dismembered corpses are left to be feasted upon by vultures and wild dogs. With the power of his practice, like the “rays of the sun,” he was

able to clear the demonic darkness and terror accumulated in these surroundings. The sculpture shows him as a tantric practitioner, or siddha, seated on an animal hide with the sun—the attribute of Nyima Oser—above his left shoulder at the end of a lasso.

Dimensions

7 1/2 × 6 × 5 in.