

# Basic Detail Report

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## Leg Bone Trumpet (Kang Ling)

### Date

18th-19th century

### Medium

Human bone, copper, coral, leather

### Description

Buddhist practitioners who engage in the practice of "cutting the ego" (chod) use implements such as this

during their meditation and rituals. Traditionally, they would engage in this practice at charnel grounds, places where dead bodies decompose or are eaten by vultures, to facilitate their experiences. These yogis visualize, while reciting verses and mantras of the tantric ritual, that they dismantle their ego. They blow the trumpet to summon spirits and other beings inhabiting the charnel ground and offer them their visualized cut-up body as an offering. They also rhythmically rotate the drum to beat it at appropriate moments of their ritual, which aids in transforming their perceptions.

### Dimensions

14 1/4 × 3 × 3 1/2 in.