

Basic Detail Report



Page of the Perfection of Wisdom (Prajnaparamita) Sutra Manuscript

Date

ca. 13th-14th century

Medium

Pigments, Gold and Silver Inks on paper

Description

The Buddha’s teachings as oral recitations were written down in texts known as sutras and envisioned in images. At the time of their writing, the sutras represented the latest developments in Buddhist philosophy and practice. As one of the earliest and most important, The Perfection of Wisdom Sutra presents the means to comprehend and perfect the essential Buddhist wisdom—that the self is a construct—and develops concepts that will become known as the Greater Vehicle, or Mahayana movement. With the intention to generate merit—an investment of positive karma to ensure a good present and future lives—wealthy patrons commissioned artists and scribes to create decorated manuscripts as the physical containers of the Buddha’s words and objects of devotion. It is believed that reciting the sutra purifies the space wherever it is heard, generates positive karmic links with the teachings in the minds of all gathered, and brings well-being and prosperity.

Dimensions

27 3/4 x 36 1/4 x 2 1/4 in. (70.5 x 92.1 x 5.7 cm)