# Art Break - Tibetan Diadem May 19 and 22, 2020



Ritual Crown (Diadem), late 18th century, Tibet, leather with polychrome lacquer, 98.52 What are you curious about?



## Key Ideas - Ritual Crown (Diadem)

Ritual crowns are worn by Buddhist priests and monks during certain religious ceremonies, especially initiation rites.

It is decorated with the Five Cosmic Buddhas, arranged as they would be on a mandala, or cosmic diagram.

When wearing such a crown, a priest is connected with the divine essence and becomes a receptacle for cosmic forces.

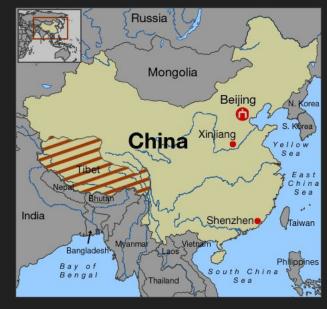


### Tibet

Tibet is located to the south-west of China, also bordering India, Nepal, Myanmar (Burma) and Bhutan.Tibet is the highest region on Earth, with an average elevation of 5,000 m (16,000 ft).

The Tibetan Plateau is the traditional homeland of the Tibetan people and other ethnic groups (Sherpa). It has maintained a unique culture, written and spoken language, religion and political system for centuries.

Tibet has a long and fractious relationship with China; China forcibly annexed Tibet in 1950, and governs Tibet as the Tibet Autonomous Region.





## Tibetan Buddhism



The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso

Buddhism became a major presence in Tibet at the end of the 8th century CE by way of Indian monks.

The best known face of Tibetan Buddhism is the Dalai Lama.

The form of Buddhism practiced in Tibet is Tantric Buddhism, also known as Vajrayana and Esoteric Buddhism. Tibetan Buddhism embraces a vast pantheon of divinities.

Tibet primarily produced religious art: paintings (thankas), illustrated texts, and metal sculptures.Stylistic influences come from India, Nepal, and China.



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Kalachakra - wheel of time

#### The Ritual Crown is decorated with the Five Cosmic Buddhas.

Vairochana, the Radiant One, white deity presides over the center

Akshobhya (blue -Unshakeable).

Ratnasabhava (yellow - -Jewel-Born) facing south, above the priest's right ear



Amitabha (red -Infinite Light)

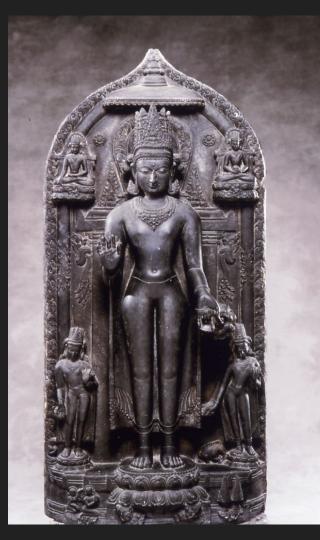
> Amoghasiddhi (green -Unfailing Success), facing north, above the priest's left ear

### Cosmic Buddhas-Wisdom Tathagata Buddhas-Dhyani Buddhas

Vairochana	Akshobya	Ratnasambhava	Amitabha	Amoghasidhi
Center	East	South	West	North
White	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green
Delusion / Ignorance	Anger	Pride	Desire / Attachment	Jealousy
	Vajra (Dorje)	Jewel		Double Vajra
8-spoked Wheel			Lotus	



<u>Standing crowned Buddha with four scenes of his life,</u> <u>1050–1100.</u> India; southern Magadha region, Bihar state. Stone. Courtesy of the Asian Art Museum, The Avery Brundage Collection



Ritual Diadem wil Five Buddhas,

The Walters Art Museum





Vajracarya Priest's Crown, Nepal, c. 15th-16th century



Tibetan Buddhism 5 Vajrasattva Shakti Set Five Point Crown / Ringa / Ritual Cap PRODUCT #: 761768135365



Ritual Crown (Diadem), late 18th century, Tibet, leather with polychrome lacquer

### What Gives art value?

Amoghasiddhi, 13th century Unknown artist, Western Tibet or Central Regions, Tibet Brass with pigment, gilding, and silver inlay



Green Tara, 14th -15th Century, Tibet, bronze with turquoise and gold

Consort to Amoghasiddhi



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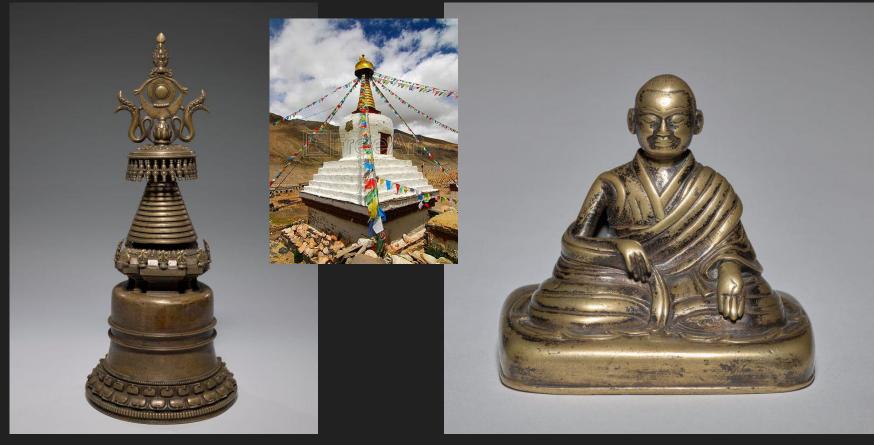
Monks from Namgyal Monastery performing the Ritual Offering Dance during the 34th Kalachakra Empowerment in Bodhgaya, Bihar, India on January 10, 2017.





Yamantaka Mandala, 1991 Monks of the Gyuto Tantric University Colored silicate and adhesive on wood





Chorten, 13th century, brass

Portrait of a Lama, 17th-18th century, Tibet, bronze, copper





#### The Bhadrakalpika Sutra, c. 1500

Prayer Wheel, 18th-19th century

### Tibetan Buddhism and Ritual Crown Discussion

What questions might visitors have about this?

With what tour themes might you use this Tibetan Ritual Crown?

What other artworks or cultural belongings would you connect this with?

What are some the concerns or hesitations you might have when facilitating a discussion around the topic of Buddhism?

What are ways in which we can hold culturally fluent and respectful conversations on diverse belief systems and cultural belongings?