

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Art Break - Tibetan Diadem
May 19 and 22, 2020

Mia

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

8-spoked Wheel

Vajra (Dorje)

Jewel

Lotus

Double Vajra



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



Ritual Diadem with
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
\$15.75



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?