



## Tomb Guardian (Zhenmushou)

### Date

475 BCE - 9 CE

### Medium

Wood, antler, lacquer and paint

### Description

Horned wooden figures with large eyes and protruding tongues served as tomb guardians for the Chu culture living in the central Yangzi River basin. These creatures represented the spirit of the earth or the god of soil. They defended the deceased against evil underground demons. This exceptionally preserved tomb guardian is made of carved wood and antlers covered in black and red lacquer.

### Dimensions

a: 28 × 25 1/2 in. (71.1 × 64.8 cm) b: 4 1/4 × 9 × 9 1/2 in. (10.8 × 22.9 × 24.1 cm)