



Architectural Finial

Date

19th Century

Primary Maker

Javanese

Medium

Earthenware and lime

Description

The finial is composed of two parts, a and b. The base (part b) of the finial is hollow and pyramid-shaped, with a circular opening at the center. There is a lid (part a) which has a deep circular lip that fits over opening on the main body, but forms into a square shape with a cylindrical column at the center. There is a decorative peak at each corner of the square portion of both parts as well as three-dimensional decorative elements, including doves,

covering the surface area of each part. There is a dove at the top of the cylindrical column on the top (part a). Finials like these would have adorned the home of a noble's traditional home. Doves are symbols of ancestors and the upperworld in Javanese culture.

Dimensions

a: 25 × 14 1/2 × 13 1/2 in. (63.5 × 36.8 × 34.3 cm) b: 18 1/2 × 21 × 21 in. (47 × 53.3 × 53.3 cm) a and b together: 26 × 36 3/4 in. (66 × 93.3 cm)