

Door Curtain

Date 20th Century

Primary Maker

Han

Medium

Silk, linen, metal thread and plastic

Description

Festive embroidered door hangings such as this were hung outside of houses in China on the occasion of a new house being completed, festival celebrations, weddings or religious ceremonies. Typically, the designs on these hangings were related to the Taoist Eight Immortals, revered beings that attained immortality. The ninth individual in the center of this hanging most likely represents the God of Longevity or another Taoist god. The Eight Immortals are usually mounted on animals, as seen here, and they each are representative of a different condition in life. There is evidence of such hangings being used in the Qing dynasty, but it is possible that they were used in earlier times as well.

Dimensions

19 1/4 \times 135 \times 1 in. (48.9 \times 342.9 \times 2.5 cm)