



Drinking Horn

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Miao

Medium

Buffalo horn, paint and fiber

Description

This polychrome, lacquered horn was used as a wine horn during Miao and Yao festivals and celebrations like weddings. Common practice was for two of these horns to hang by the doorway of a host’s home. When a guest entered, both the host and the guest would each drink a horn of rice wine. These horns were most often made from water buffalo horn and then either carved or painted, but sometimes they were instead made from silver using the traditional techniques. The designs are commonly sectioned as seen here. Plants, the dragon and the phoenix are all characteristic Miao motifs, along with scenes of Miao life seen near the mouth of the horn.

Dimensions

Without Tassel: 5 × 12 1/2 × 2 in. (12.7 × 31.8 × 5.1 cm) With Tassel: 5 × 15 × 2 in. (12.7 × 38.1 × 5.1 cm)