

Basic Detail Report



Temple Plaque

Date

20th Century

Medium

Gilt bronze and wood

Description

Gilded plaques such as this one can be found hanging from the roofs of Tibetan temples or monasteries. Other

examples of round, gilt bronze temple decorations are generally mandalas, with concentric levels of Buddhist symbols. Though also used as a temple decoration, this object is instead dominated by the Kalachakra Tenfold Powerful symbol. This symbol can further be broken down into its ten different components, which together represent the Kalachakra or the “wheel of time.” The first seven are stylized versions of Tibetan Ranjana characters which spell out the Kalachakra mantra, “Ham Ksha Ma La Va Ra Ya.” The crescent, disc, and tilaka refer to the speech, body, and mind mandalas respectively. The symbol is commonly used to ward against evil spirits.

Dimensions

14 × 14 × 1 in. (35.6 × 35.6 × 2.5 cm)