

Kris

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 7141 

Type: weapons and armament; metalwork; carving

Date of production: late 18th – early 20th century (?)

Place of production: Java or Bali, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: steel, bone, forged, carved

Dimensions: length: 50 cm
width: 10 cm

A sacred dagger (Indonesian: kris) with a meticulously carved human-shaped handle. Behind the spectacular headdress of a carved female figure, her long hair falling back is accented in front by an ornate ribbon/scarf. The left hand is damaged, the right has strikingly long, delicate fingers reminiscent of Balinese arc deco figures. The kris is a sacred object, an important expression of Javanese and Balinese identity, and a status symbol. Missing scabbard.

