

Kris hilt

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 79.39.1 

Type: weapons and armament; metalwork; carving

Date of production: 19th – early 20th century

Place of production: Bali, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: wood, gold, semi-precious stone, carved, engraved, inlay

Dimensions: height: 11 cm
width: 5.5 cm

Wood carved figural hilt decorated with gold plates and coloured semi-precious stone (?) inlay. The figure, with bulging eyes, open mouth and upraised right leg, presumably represents a demon. A striking feature is the genital organ, also covered with gold leaf, and the gold triangular decorated seat, the so-called tumpal throne.

For the Indonesians the kris is much more than a simple weapon, it is a spectacular and effective expression of Javanese spirituality, a vehicle of spiritual power, a symbol of heroism and a status symbol.

