

Sarasvatī, the Goddess of Melody

Mongolian Collection

Accession Nr.: 6303 

Type: painting; textile; thangka

Date of production: 18th century

Place of production: Mongolia?

Materials: cotton canvas; silk

Techniques: painted

Dimensions: image: 47.2 × 31.5 cm
frame: 96.5 × 52.6 cm

The White bodied Sarasvatī seats on a lunar disk of a white lotus flower; her feet are drawn up and crossed. In her raised left hand she holds a classical Indian musical instrument, which is decorated with a dragon's head. With her right hand she plucks the instrument. Her hair is gathered up into a knot and her body is covered by eight kinds of jewellery; on top part of her body she wears a green-silk shawl and on the bottom part a decorated red garment. A red halo encircles her head and a green one her body. Above her, among the clouds, there is a darkblue Aksobhya buddha encircled by halo. On the left side is the famous tantric yogi Padmasambhava, while the figure on the right side holding a jug filled with holy water is perhaps an abbot of a famous monastery. On the back of the thangka there are seed syllables in lantsa script and mantra also lantsa script. The painting is framed with blue damask-silk border, to which at the top and bottom round-shaped, swivel-voen dragon-patterned appliquéd parts have been sewn on. Manchurian-script ornamentation is woven into the material of the mounting.

