

Gunungan or kayon

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 67.52.1 

Type: puppetry and shadow play

Date of production: second half of the 19th century – early 20th century

Place of production: West Java, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: painted hide, wood

Dimensions: height: 53cm
(height with body support: 76 cm)

width: 32 cm

Part of the wayang golek scene or stage accessory from Ernő Zboray's collection. The name gunungan originates from the word "gunung" (mountain) and most probably refers to the place where gods live, Smeru, as well as the tree of life motif appearing in the word "kayon" (tree). This puppet is one of the most emblematic figures in wayang golek, which stages a complex set of symbols.

