

Holy water font. Phra Malai's journey to hell

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 4366 

Type: sculpture; religious or cult object; statuette; small bronze

Date of production: early 19th century

Place of production: Thailand (Siam), Southeast Asia

Materials/Technique s: bronze, painted, gilt, mirror inlay

Dimensions: height: 25cm
width: 10.5cm
depth: 11.6 cm

Acquisition: collection of Ferenc Hopp

The story of the monk Phra Malai relates how during his journey through hell those tormented in the underworld begged him to intercede with their relatives living on earth by asking them to alleviate their agony by doing good deeds. The exquisitely detailed figure of the monk and his attire are juxtaposed to the nakedness of those agonising in hell, which symbolises the vast difference between the different spheres of existence.

