Flag - Gitbal (??)

Object: Flag

Place of origin: Korea (made)

Date: 1700-1899 (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Painted silk

Credit Line: Given by Angus Macdonald

Museum number: FE.45-1999

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

This flag is one of the various types of military flags from the Joseon dynasty. Those flags are attached to a flagpole with leather straps, and come in five colours, with each colour symbolising one of the five directions where the troops holding the flag are positioned. The blue background here indicates the east, and its troop would have reacted to the position and movement of the flag during the battle. The tiger, symbol of courage and bravery, is dressed in military attire and moves forward while holding a spear, leading the way for its troop.

Descriptive line
Painted blue silk flag, Late Choson period, Korea, 1700-1899

Physical description
Blue silk flag with a painting of a tiger dressed in military attire.

Dimensions
Length: 137 cm, Width: 112 cm, ; Length: 92 cm backing

Museum number
FE.45-1999

Object history note
This textile was the subject of a conservation project the results of which were presented in a paper entitled 'The conservation of a Korean painted silk banner, c. 1800: Paint analysis and support via solvent-reactivated acrylic adhesive', at the 13th Triennial meeting, Rio De Janero, 22-27 September 2002. ICOM committee for Conservation.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O34030/gitbal-flag-unknown/