Sculpture - Hariti

Object: Sculpture

Place of origin: Pakistan (Swat Region, made)

Date: 6th century-7th century (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Steatite

Museum number: IM.65-1911

Gallery location: South-East Asia, Room 47a, case 8

Public access description

This is a steatite (soapstone) figure of Hariti, a fertility goddess and the benevolent patroness of children. Together with her husband Panchika, she is also associated with the embodiment of prosperity.

Here she sits on a throne, wearing a triple diadem. Several motifs refer to her association with prosperity and fertility. She is holding what may be a cornucopia (damaged), a child spills an overturned basket at her feet, and overhead two elephants pour libations. These motifs are shared with Sri Laksmi, the Hindu goddess of prosperity.

Descriptive line
Hariti, steatite, Swat region, Pakistan, 6th-7th century

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Dimensions

Height: 23 cm, Width: 23 cm

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Object history note

Purchased from Mrs McGrath

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O64920/hariti-sculpture-unknown/