



Sanni Mask in the form of Naga Raksha (Snake Demon)

Date

Late 20th century

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Wood, paint

Description

A mask of carved wood and painted depicting Naga Raksha or Snake Demon. The face of the mask is mostly

green and red, while the "ears" are mostly gold colored. A Sri Lanka Naga Raksha mask, also known as a snake demon, or cobra mask, is a wooden mask that depicts a demon with a ferocious face and sharp teeth. The mask is often used in festivals and cultural dances and is believed to protect against evil spirits and bring blessings to the community. This mask would be used for exorcism, to rid a victim of a disease or ailment associated with a particular demon cause

Dimensions

Mask, Alone: 13 1/2 × 10 × 8 in. (34.2901 × 25.4001 × 20.32 cm) Ear, Each: 11 3/4 × 11 × 1 1/4 in. (29.8451 × 27.9401 × 3.175 cm)