

24 APRIL – 27 AUGUST 2023
Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum: Gallery

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The metal sculpture depicts Buddha in a monk's robe with a gesture of touching the ground. He is seated on a lotus throne with two rows of lotus petals.

BUDDHA

origin and date unclear,
19,5 cm.

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The mandala is a meditation tool in the form of a circle or stepped pyramid with the main object of veneration placed in the centre. In this case, one of the five transcendent Vairochana Buddhas (Tibetan for "making perfectly visible") rules the symbolically multifaceted composition. The meditative aspect emphasizes the function of the Buddha as teacher, without whom there would be no Buddhism or path to enlightenment.

MANDALA WITH VAIROCHANA BUDDHA

Mongolia or China, 18th century,
75x54 cm.

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This interesting and in the iconography not very common clay sculpture represents an unknown monk belonging to the Tibetan Buddhist school of "yellow caps" Gelug.

GELUG SCHOOL MONK
Mongolia, 19th century,
18 cm.

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Olomouc Museum of art

Mandalas in the Wind | Tibetan Buddhist Art from
the collection of National Museum – Náprstek museum

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Two dancing skeletons represent protective deities. They protect against misfortune and thieves, but they also bring wealth. However, the iconography differs from school to school. According to the Sakya school, the two skeletons hold sticks from a twisted "spine"; according to the Gelug school, the "mother" holds an ear of grain and a vase.

YAB-YUM - THE PROTECTORS OF THE BURIAL

Mongolia, 19th century,
7x6 cm.

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TWENTY-ONE TARAS

Mongolia, 19th century,
83 × 72 cm.

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The White Tara is filled with pure compassion for our suffering, symbolized in the painting by the white colour of her skin. In sculptural form she sits on a lotus throne in a calm meditative position, with her legs folded beneath her in contrast to Green Tara, who has one leg extended towards the ground to rush immediately to our defence if necessary.

WHITE TARA

origin and date unclear,
39 cm.

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