



Dimensions

Height: 360 mm

Wood block

Date

1900-1925 ca.

Description

Carved, wooden slit drum, commonly referred to as a temple block. Hollow, unfinished interior. Exterior body lacquered red with black-and-gold details. The Chinese muyu is struck to invoke a sense of watchfulness since it is symbolic of a fish, which is thought to remain awake both day and night. The mokugyo, imported into Japan sometime during the 13th century, is identical to its Chinese ancestor. Slit drums like this are often paired with the kin (bowl gong) during the recitation of sutra in the Zen Buddhist tradition.