

Basic Detail Report

Kettle gong

Date

1630-1680 ca.

Description

Cast bronze body with elaborate concentric design and central starburst. Four (4) groups of stacked frog effigies on drum head. Elephant effigies attached to side. Prized among mountain people in border regions between present-day Thailand and Myanmar, instruments like this were associated with the ritual practice of summoning rain. This drum dates between 1630 and 1680. These inch-long elephants are adornments on the National Music Museum's remarkable 17th-century Southeast Asian cast-bronze kettle gong or, 'frog drum.' The drum's dating has been based on the shape of its resonating cavity and stylized features. Four stacked sets of three cast-bronze frogs decorate the drum's top, while decorative lizards, snails, and these two elephants descend its sides. Floral, geometric, and woven-rope designs within concentric circles cover the instrument's elaborate metalwork.

Dimensions

Diameter: 675 mm Height: 535 mm