

Basic Detail Report



Cymbals

Date

1700 ca.

Description

Two bronze cymbals. Silk brocade handles and pad.

Original, fitted lacquerwork case. In Tibet, cymbals are typically held in a roughly horizontal (diagonal) position and played with gentle, vertical strokes. They are used not only to provide structure and rhythmic articulation in ritual chant, but also to provide rhythmic drive in instrumental ensembles. Traditional Tibetan cymbal playing might also be understood as a sort of ritual in itself. The number of cymbal beats in a chant forms a complex mathematical structure that has great symbolic value. Every cymbal stroke, for example, consists of three parts: the initial stroke, the accelerating pulse(s), and the concluding hum. During chants, the cymbals are rotated as they are played and strokes occur on different parts of the rim.

Dimensions

Diameter: 290 mm