



Bodhisattva and Attendants

Date

early 6th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

stone

Description

This piece is stylistically similar to Buddhist stela that were erected all over China during the period prior to and immediately following the reunification of the country by the Sui and Tang Dynasties. Its composition is typical in that it portrays a large central figure of a Bodhisattva standing on an opening lotus, a symbol of Buddhism. The Bodhisattva is flanked by two attendant figures who, in turn, are standing on the backs of lions. The mandala of the central figure is ornamented, while those of the two attendant figures remain plain. The base is slotted, probably to be fit into a stone niche.

Dimensions

Overall: 40 1/2 x 18 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (102.9 x 47 x 16.5 cm)