



Cai Shen, God of Wealth

Date

16th or 17th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

soapstone, lacquer and gilding

Description

Nothing is known of this mythic figure. He is said to have lived on earth as a hermit and to have the power to ride on a black tiger. He purportedly fought for King Wu, founder of the Zhou Dynasty, against the last ruler of the Shang, Zhou Xin. He was killed by sorcery and later immortalized as the god of riches.

Dimensions

Overall: 6 3/4 x 4 7/8 x 2 3/4 in. (17.1 x 12.4 x 7 cm)