Finch & Co



TIBETAN COPPER RITUAL VESSEL IN THE FORM OF A KAPALA

A TIBETAN COPPER RITUAL VESSEL IN THE FORM OF A KAPALA, EACH QUARTERED LOBE DECORATED WITH THREE SILVER SKULLS DANCING FROM A CHAIN OF SILVER ROSARY BEADS, THE BRASS EDGE WITH A SILVER RIM
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 6CM HIGH, 16CM DEEP, 12.5CM WIDE – 2¼ INS HIGH, 6¼ INS DEEP, 5 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

KAPALA ARE MADE BY THE TIBETAN MONKS IN THE SHAPE OF THE TOP OF A HUMAN SKULL AND SOMETIMES ACTUAL SKULLS ARE USED. THEY ARE SYMBOLIC OF THE IMPERMANENCE OF THE HUMAN CONDITION AND MADE TO CONTAIN A LIQUID CALLED 'THE INNER OFFERING'. THIS ALCOHOLIC SUBSTANCE REPRESENTS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FIVE ASPECTS OF MORTAL BEING INTO THE FIVE BUDDHA'S QUALITIES, AND THE FIVE DELUSIONS INTO THE FIVE WISDOMS.