

Chariot Paneling

India, South Kerala, late 17th century
Polychromed wood

Gift of The Christensen Fund, 2001
(10706.1a-f)

These panels are the front screen of a processional chariot used in temple festivals. The chariot would be completely covered by the carved panels to conceal its interior frame. Larger chariots bore panels that reached heights of over five meters. The decoration of these panels are closely related to the decoration of the temple. The tallest panels show Kṛiṣṇa playing the flute beneath Garuda while the others depict various scenes and characters from the Indian epic story, the *Rāmāyaṇa*.