

Head of a Garuda

Cambodia, Khmer, 10th century
Sandstone

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Christian H. Aall, 2003
(12,394.1)

Garuda is the half-man, half-bird mount of the Hindu god Vishnu. Frequently in Cambodian art, bulging eyes are seen only on demons. In this case, however, they likely were used to show Garuda's guardian nature and alert scholars to the strong probability that this head once belonged to a sculpture near a temple entryway and served to ward off evil spirits.

