



Khon mask in the form of a monkey

Date

Late 20th century

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Papier-mâché; paint, gold leaf, glass.

Description

A decorative mask not intended to be worn of a blue monkey character with its mouth open and a golden headdress. Khon is a complex masked dance originating

in Thai dramatic arts in the Ayutthaya period. This form of masked theater often depicts the story of Ramakien (Ramayana). Khon characters tend to fall within four categories: lords, ladies, ogres / demons, and monkeys. These masks are an important feature of these performances. Masks associated with Khon are considered sacred, as they are used as representations of deities. Before adorning the masks, performers offer prayer and enter into a state of trance during the performance. Performances are traditionally performed as part of ritual ceremony, and for entertainment for royal courts. Today, they are also performed for public entertainment and for tourists.

Dimensions

8 1/4 × 11 × 10 1/2 in. (20.955 × 27.9401 × 26.6701 cm)