

Object Summary



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Carved Statue of Krishna Playing the Flute

20th century

India

Chloritic schist, paint, gold, copper alloy

Overall: 38 3/4 x 15 x 9 1/2 in. (98.4 x 38.1 x 24.1cm)

This sculpture depicts Krishna, the early embodiment of the Hindu god Vishnu, playfully playing a flute. Krishna was a cowherd who grew up in the mystical forests of Vrindavan where he met with his beloved Radha. Representations of the flute-playing Krishna are called Venugopala from venu, the Sanskrit word for flute, and Gopal, an epithet for Krishna. The enchanting melodies of Krishna's flute attract the gopis or milkmaids.