

Object Summary



Forest Scene from Ramayana with Rama, Lakshmana, and Hanuman

c. 1930

Java, Indonesia

Cotton, pigments

Overall: 41 1/16 × 76 in. (104.3 × 193cm)

This decorative batik textile depicts the style of wayang kulit (shadow puppetry), rendered in traditional colors of black, brown, and cream. It illustrates a scene from the Ramayana. Rama and his younger brother Lakshmana are traveling with Hanuman, chief of the vanara (forest-dwellers, typically monkeys). They encounter wildlife: peacocks, a lion, a bull, an elephant, a tiger, and naga (serpentine dragon form). The scene can represent a scene during the protagonists' quest to find the palace of Rahwana, the leader of the raksasas (demons).