

Object Summary



Carved and Painted Wooden Mask of Subali or Sugriwa

20th century

Bali, Indonesia

Wood, polychrome pigments, rawhide, metal hardware

Overall: 15 3/4 × 8 1/4 × 3 3/4 in. (40 × 21 × 9.5cm)

Bearing great similarities in their depiction, Subali and Sugriwa are two rival monkey brothers from the Hindu epic, the Ramayana. Throughout a series of events, Subali becomes intertwined in an incendiary duel involving his younger brother, Sugriwa, and Subali's wife Dewi Tara. After Subali was presumed dead, his brother Sugriwa claimed Dewi Tara as his own wife, catalyzing the legendary battle between the Monkey Kings. The story of the two brothers is a popular excerpt from the Ramayana performed in both traditional and modern iterations.