



Vajradhara

Date

17th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

copper alloy, gilding, pigment and semi-precious stones

Description

Vajradhara literally means “vajra bearer.” He is the personification of the primordial (adi) or first Buddha. He sits in a meditative pose holding the vajra and bell, which symbolize the synthesis of compassion and wisdom. He wears the crown and jewelry of a Bodhisattva, which indicates his sambhogakaya (body of bliss). Vajrasattva is the primordial or Adi-Buddha of the Kadampa sect,

founded in the 11th century. Essentially Vajrasattva is the same as Vajradhara. The only differentiation between them is iconographic – he holds the vajra and bell differently.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 1/8 x 6 1/4 x 4 1/8 in. (20.6 x 15.9 x 10.5 cm)