



Ceiling canopy (leluwuor) with a design of holy men and lotus surrounding the symbol of Siwa

Medium

Silk embroidery on cotton, with mirror glass, scrap cloth triangles, and nylon fringe

Description

Ceiling canopy (leluwuor) with a design of holy men and lotus surrounding the symbol of Siwa. Silk threads on cotton, mirror glass, scrap cloth triangles, and nylon fringes. Ceiling canopy used in ceremonies and rituals.

Balinese script in the center is composed of sacred letters, here denoting the god Siwa. The four persons are Balinese ascetics or holy men with their traditional jackets and elaborate headdresses. Each is holding a petal and one holds a bajra (sacred bell); which are used in meditations and prayers. Depictions of persons on these embroidered ceiling canopies are rare, as most have sewn floral and geometric motifs with little embroidery. There are four large lotus motifs. The dragonfly, goose, and pig are apparently just decorations. The six words are transliterations from the Balinese language but their precise meaning and significance is unclear: Ukir (carved or engraved), kawi (ancient form of Javanese), nela jang (fisher), and tampaking kuntil (a heron who catches fish).

Dimensions

47 1/4 × 49 3/16 inches (120 × 125 cm)