



Benzaiten with Attending Deities

Date

ca. 1400

Primary Maker

Anonymous

Medium

ink, light colors and gold on silk

Description

Three of the seven gods of happiness (shichi Fukujin). At right is Daikoku (God of Prosperity); at center is Benzaiten (Goddess of Love); at left is Bishamonten (God of Happiness and War). The central Goddess is hierarchically the largest. She is elaborately dressed in a Chinese robe and headdress and is seated in the lotus position and has her eight attributes in each of her arms (the jewel, staff, hoho, sword, wheel, bow, arrows, and an object too worn to identify). The two flanking deities are standing. Bishamonten holds a stupa; Daikoku has a bag and mallet. Sixteen attendants are there to supply necessities, luxuries and offerings, among them appears to be a boat floating in water at the bottom of the painting.

Dimensions

76.2 x 38.7 cm (30 x 15 1/4 in.)