



A NIGHT GODDESS INSTRUCTING SUDHANA

This painting portrays Sudhana, pilgrim and protagonist of the *Gaṇḍavyūha Sutra*, paying homage to one of the eight night goddesses he encounters in the text. The goddess, whose dark blue color indicates her divine power, instructs him in the path of the bodhisattva. She points to what appears to be an ascetic's water pot between them. It is produced with opaque watercolor and ink on a palm leaf folio and comes from Nepal circa 1150–1175. The folio measures 2 x 21.75 in. (5.1 x 55.3 cm).

Courtesy of Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Nasli and Alice Heeramaneck Collection