

47. Roof garuḍa

Đa Nghi, Quảng Trị

10th century

Sandstone: H. 70 cm;

W. 45 cm; D. 72 cm

BTC 52-41.5



In Cham art there is a great diversity in representing the *garuḍa*, in omnipresent decorative motifs of bases, or, more often, on roofs. They are found as often in low-relief – on tympana, corner blocks, metopes or antefixes – as carved in the round, where they may appear as a great head recessed into the masonry of a building¹ or, as here, on foot performing the role of an accent piece in the roof of a monument. The rear part of this piece consists of a great roughly finished tenon stuck into the cornice from which *garuḍa* appears to be taking off. The arched chest, the wings spread and the hands symmetrically projected forwards contribute to the general

effect of movement and dynamism of the anthropomorphic bird. Despite the considerable erosion of the surface of this incomplete sculpture, unfinished below and in the jewelry, certain other details like the wing feathers and the eyes, bulging somewhat and emphasised by large frowning eyebrows, are well finished. The jewelry – golden necklace, tiara with small florets and circular ear pendants – as well as the costume, correspond with the criteria we expect from a work in the Trà Kiệu style in the second half of the 10th century.

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¹ Boisselier 1963 (1), fig. 129.