



"WATER DRAGON" EMBROIDERED DUDOU

\$480

c. 1900 • Southern China, China • Silk, Cotton • Collection #CRN002

W: 24.5" D: 0.25" H: 19.5"

With so many aspects of their lives dictated by prescribed rules, Qing-dynasty women often found personal expression with the dudou, an undergarment also known as a bellyband. Traditionally made by and for women, the dudou was fashioned like an apron, a square of fabric with straps for tying around the neck and back. Though rarely seen by anyone but the wearer and her intimates, this dudou was nonetheless lavishly decorated with satin stitch embroidery. Deer and phoenixes cavort along the floral borders, while a fantastic water dragon dwells within the lowest panel. Continued...



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Made in the early 20th century, this dudou was likely made for a young bride, as the embroidered figures symbolize good luck, happiness, and fertility.



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