
PAGODA RED



CRYSTAL OPIUM LAMP

\$380

c. 1800 • Southern China, China • Bronze, Crystal • Collection #CB474

H: 3.5" Dia: 3.0"

By the 18th century, opium use had become as central to Chinese social life as taking tea or smoking tobacco, fostering a subculture rich with its own customs, traditions, and exquisitely crafted accoutrements. This 19th-century opium lamp, hand-crafted with a perforated bronze base and cut-crystal dome, was designed to regulate the amount of opium smoke inhaled. The top opening acted as a chimney, channeling the precise amount of heat needed to vaporize the bit of opium placed in a pipe and held over the lamp. Continued...



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Post-Cultural Revolution campaigns to eradicate opium use successfully stopped production of related accessories, making this lamp quite rare.



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