

Peig Fairbrook and Adele Fox

Symbol of Peace, 2004

Dyed, painted cotton

69 x 86 inches

\$8,000



The work is a painted banner with hemmed edges visible at the reverse. Three sleeves along the top horizontal edge accommodate a flat metal rod, which is used for mounting purposes.

To represent the inseparable aspect of the people of Tibet with the Dalai Lama, Fairbrook and Fox sought inspiration in the traditional banners used to convey goodwill and impart Buddhist teachings. These banners are visible throughout the Tibetan landscape, flowing freely, in the same way the artists' cloth panels flutter against the background.

The juniper branch, an important sign in the identification of the Dalai Lama as a child, is one of the many symbols painted here. Hand symbols known as "mudras" are traditionally used in association with Avalokitesvara, the bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddha and is incarnated in the Dalai Lama. The symbols represent: charity (Varada), prayer (Namaskara), debate (Vitarka) and fearless blessing (Abhaya). The bell (Ghanta) is of more general Buddhist significance, connoting impermanence and insight.