CARVED BEAK OF HORNBILL

The helmeted hornbill (Rhinoplax vigil) belongs to the Buceros family. which inhabits the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo, and has a horn-like excrescence on the upper mandible, which is skillfully used by Chinese carvers. The scene represents the visit of an emperor to the fairy of the moon.

Ming Period, Sixteenth Century