



A Mughal officer listening to a singer

Not on display

Title/Description: A Mughal officer listening to a singer

Born: 1650 c. - 1675 c.

Object Type: Drawing

Materials: Gold, Paper, Silver, Watercolour

Measurements: h 184 x w 270 mm (frame: 367 x 473 x 16 mm)

Accession Number: 538

Historic Period: 17th century

Production Place: Asia, Central India, India, North Deccan

School/Style: Indian Miniatures

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

This picture shows Rajasthani influence because the faces are side view and of northern type. The officer's costume has a Muslim-style right-hand fastening but is not so decorative as those of Golconda, though he does wear a gold turban. In the centre is a fish pond with a fountain. The dark green foliage of the pergola above could be from the Deccan school but there seems to be some indication of European influence here. The stylised foreground flowers are Deccani-style. The *huqqa* is definitely Deccani, being made of the celebrated silver-inlay *Bidri* ware. The ruler's *paan* box is in front of him and he has a plate of rolled *paan* leaves (containing betel nut and other ingredients) to offer to his guests as a sign of dismissal.

Description taken from the 'Art From The Indian Sub-Continent In The Sainsbury Centre' catalogue by Margaret A. Willey (Sainsbury Centre, UEA, 1995).

Provenance

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
