



A nobleman listening to music

Not on display

Title/Description: A nobleman listening to music

Born: 1670 c.

Measurements: h 161 x w 170 mm (frame: 291 x 301 x 16 mm)

Accession Number: 541

Historic Period: 17th century

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

This work was probably painted by artists imported from Rajasthan (Mewar) because the heavily moustached faces are typical of that style. The colours are rich and glowing and the paint is so thick that it almost has a lacquer-like effect. The ruler sits on a raised seat against a cushion. On the carpet beside him are a rose-water sprinkler and a *paan* box. Behind him is an attendant standing in front of a rolled blind and holding a peacock fan. Their transparent costumes, sashes, turbans and jewellery seem Deccani, as does the unusual glowing colour combination of orange, lime green and purple. The musicians are Hindus because their robes fasten under their left arms. The musician with an animal head, directing the music and playing cymbals, is probably meant to be a personified god. The work illustrates a *Ragamala*, or musical mode, a Deccani specialisation.

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.
