

Object Summary



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"The Sixth Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb"

c 1790 CE

Northern India

Mughal

Gouache, gold on paper

Overall: 17 7/16 x 12 1/2 in. (44.3 x 31.8 cm)

This painting depicts an aging emperor Aurangzeb (reigned 1658-1707 CE) resting against a red bolster upon a golden throne. Yet he is not merely an elderly man resting in comfort – tucked into his belt is a katar, the distinctive handle of which shines in gold against the luxurious fabric. One hand holds a flywhisk, while his head is framed by a golden halo and covered by a parasol – each symbol denoting his imperial status, and reminding the viewer of his strength and power.