

Object Summary



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Gold, Gem and Pearl-Inset White Jade Flat Perfume Bottle with Bird and Floral Motifs

19th - 20th century

India

British India/Princely States

Jade, enameled gold, gemstones, pearls

Overall: 3 3/8 x 1 3/4 x 9 3/16 in. (8.6 x 4.4 x 23.3cm)

This perfume bottle is inset with gemstones in the shape of a blue bird among blossoming branches — appropriate imagery for the sweet-smelling liquid inside. Imagery of flora and fauna are frequent features of the art of the Mughal era, adorning an array of objects from the hilts of daggers to intricate ornaments. The artistic legacy of the Mughals persisted within the visual culture of India long after the empire collapsed in the nineteenth century. The flat-sided flask would have been suspended from the wearer's belt.