

Object Summary



Gem-Inlaid Carved Jade Pesh-Kabz Knife

20th century

India

Jade, silver, gold, gemstones

Overall: 2 x 7/8 x 13 3/4 in. (5.1 x 2.2 x 34.9cm)

This type of dagger, known as pesh-kabz, originated in Iran and was brought to the Indian subcontinent by the Mughals. With a blade that tapers to a thin, triangular point, the pesh-kabz was adept at piercing and tearing chainmail armor during battle. Its hilt is made of pale green nephrite inset with gemstones forming floral sprays connected by thin gold wire stems. Jade was valued by the Mughals' ancestors, the Timurids of Central Asia. They believed that jade brought victory in battle, and the material was often used in weaponry.