

Object Summary



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Gem and Gold-Inset White Jade Bottle with Floral Bud and Flowering Vine Motifs

18th century

India

Mughal

Jade, gold, gemstones

Overall: 4 x 2 1/16 x 1 1/2 in. (10.2 x 5.2 x 3.8cm)

The bottle is carved from white nephrite and inlaid with colorful gemstones in the shape of flowering plants. It is topped with a gem-encrusted finial. Delicate gold wire forms leafy stems and vines. The gems are set using the ***kundan*** technique, in which strips of pure gold are applied around the stones to create the mount. Depictions of naturalistic plants flourished in the visual culture of the **Mughal** period (1526–1827) and continued long after the empire collapsed in the 19th century. During the reign of **Shah Jahan** (r. 1628–58), motifs of flowering plants were often set against a plain background and spaced at regular intervals. This design appears throughout Mughal visual culture – from luxurious objects like this jade bottle to the walls of the Taj Mahal.