

Object Summary



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Hanging Lamp

Late 19th century

Syria or North Africa

Ottoman

Enameled copper alloy

33 x 12 in. (83.8 x 30.5 cm)

This hanging mosque lamp (one of four) illuminates the Qajar gallery. Made of copper alloy adorned with green and blue enamel, the lamp is pierced throughout, allowing light to shine through. The lamp is suspended by four ornate chains attached to a conical, enameled dome. This style of lamp, known as “Mamluk Revival,” evokes the legacy of metalwork of the Mamluk period, which lasted from 1250-1517 CE in Egypt and 1260-1516 CE in Greater Syria. In the nineteenth and twentieth century, this medieval metalwork experienced a revival, in part because of a growing demand from European and American museums, collectors, and tourists. These wares were created by metalworkers Cairo and Damascus, as well as other areas of the Middle East and north Africa, beyond the historic boundaries of the Mamluk sultanates.