

Object Summary



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Carved Marble Archway and Water Fountain with Floral Motifs

1935-1938

India (Agra and Delhi)

Marble

Overall: 96 x 48 1/8 in. (243.8 x 122.2cm)

This lotus-shaped, marble basin is ensconced within a niche over the sunken bathtub in the bathroom of the Mughal Gallery. Lotus blossoms line the underside of the curved arch. The spandrels of the niche are decorated with eight-petalled flowers. Marble carving existed in India since ancient times and took new forms and during the Mughal period, when naturalistic floral designs appeared across all forms of art — from jewelry to architecture. The artistic vocabulary remained a feature in Indian art long after the Mughal empire collapsed in the nineteenth century.