

Object Summary



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Polychrome Wooden Panel with Vegetal Motifs

Dated 1271 AH (1854 - 1855 CE)

Syria

Ottoman

Wood, polychrome pigments

Overall: 54 x 15 1/2 in. (137.2 x 39.4cm)

This panel (one of a pair), is located on the wall of the qa'a, or reception hall, of the Ottoman gallery. It is decorated with a tall, gilded plant in a stout vase. This type of decoration was influenced by Ottoman Istanbul. Ottoman motifs such as vases overflowing with naturalistic flowers, bowls filled with fruit, cornucopias, and architectural vignettes were featured on the walls of the wealthy in Damascus. The artistic styles of Istanbul would have traveled to the Ottoman province of Damascus via traveling artisans. Wealthy merchants would have been eager to keep the walls of their splendid reception halls up-to-date with the trends of the Ottoman capital.