

Object Summary



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Bronze and Polychrome Glass Hanging Lamp

19th - 20th century

Eastern Mediterranean

Ottoman

Copper alloy, glass

Overall: 46 1/2 x 21 7/8 in. (118.1 x 55.6cm)

This magnificent hanging lamp illuminates the Ottoman gallery with multicolored light filtered through decorative perforations and lobed openings filled with multicolored glass. The lamp is topped with a domed shade and supported by ornate chains. The circular sockets at the bottom of the lamp would have originally held long, cylindrical blown-glass lamps. This type of lamp originated with the master metalworkers of the Mamluk period in Egypt and Syria (1250–1517 CE). In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the art and architecture of the Mamluk period experienced a revival, in part because of a growing demand from European and American museums, collectors, and tourists. Western Orientalist painters depicted objects in this style in their fantastical depictions of the Islamic world. For example, a large, pierced metal lamp is documented in a painting by Spanish painter, Antonio Maria Fabres y Costa (1854–1938) in his *Lighting the Lamp*.