

Object Summary



Gold and Gem-Inset White Jade Lidded Bowl with Bird and Floral Motifs

19th century

India

British India/Princely States

Jade, gold, silver, gemstones

Overall: 2 x 3 1/2 x 2 in. (5.1 x 8.9 x 5.1cm)

This white nephrite bowl is decorated with floral and bird motifs set with colorful gemstones. Its lid is capped with a round finial surrounded by long-necked birds and flying parrots. The gems are embedded within thin strips of pure gold, an indigenous Indian technique known as kundan. The art of jade carving was not practiced on the Indian subcontinent until the arrival of the Mughals whose ancestors, the Timurids, greatly valued the

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material, importing it from Central Asia at great expense. Jade carving flourished in the hands of Indian artisans. Mirror backs, bowls, drinking vessels, and writing boxes for imperial use were expertly carved by craftsmen.