

Object Summary



Gem and Gold-Inset Jade Footed Casket with Floral Motifs

19th century

India

Mughal

Jade, enameled gold, gold, silver, gemstones

Overall: 2 7/8 x 5 3/8 x 3 1/16 in. (7.3 x 13.7 x 7.8cm)

This dark green jade casket is elegantly adorned with gold floral motifs inset with precious stones. The silver handle and clasps are embellished with floral motifs in blue and green enamel. The tastes of the Mughal rulers and nobles are evident in the highly decorative array of objects created by court-sponsored workshops called karkhanas. The imperial karkhanas produced luxurious objects, from expertly carved jade to calligraphy, paintings, jewelry, textiles, and metalwork. While many of

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these luxurious objects survived the decline of the Mughal empire, few objects created and used by everyday people from the same era exist today. More recently created objects, like the 20th-century phulkari collected by Doris Duke, draw on traditional craft practices of rural women passed down from one generation to the next.