Object Summary



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"A Female Courtier and Her Attendants" from a Ragamala: Raga Malkauns series

c. 1750

India (Rajasthan)

Paper, opaque watercolor, gold

Overall: 15 3/8 x 10 3/8 in. (39.1 x 26.4cm)

Ragamala is a Sanskrit term meaning "garland of ragas [melodies]". Celebrating these musical performances was a popular motif of court paintings in Rajasthan in the 18th-19th centuries. Depicted is a reclining noblewoman, surrounded by musicians and attendants, including a woman preparing food. It is an intersection of sound, sight, and taste - as well as scent, indicated by the flowering chahar bagh garden. This looseleaf folio would have been part of a set, celebrating the seasons, and stored in a special box for safekeeping.