

Object Summary



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Polychrome Tile Panel with Floral Vase and Cypress Trees

17th century

Iran (Isfahan)

Safavid

Ceramic, polychrome pigments

This panel (one of an identical pair) is composed of painted tiles depicting a central, flower-filled vase flanked on either side with cypress trees inhabited by colorful songbirds. Waterfowl float above the tips of the trees among swirling clouds, and yellow fish swim along the bottom of the panel. The composition is lined with a double border of intertwining, leafy vines and blue and yellow crenelations. During the Safavid period in Iran (1501-1722 CE), buildings were clad in ceramic tile adorned with lush imagery such as this. The designs were created within court-sponsored workshops and were shared to other media, such as manuscript painting and textiles. These panels are especially similar to carpet design. Safavid carpets were known for their complex designs and vivid depictions of plants, animals, calligraphy, and human figures.