

Object Summary



Pair of Gold-Set Double-Faced Diamond Inset Square Pendants with Floral Motifs and Enamelled Floral Ornamentation on Edges

18th - 19th century

India

Mughal

Enameled gold, diamonds

Overall: 2 3/16 x 2 x 1/4 in. (5.6 x 5.1 x 0.6cm)

This pair of pendants are inlaid using the kundan technique, in which the stones are fastened with strips of pure gold instead of using prongs or bevels like the Western fashion. The sides and the back of the ornaments are decorated in enamel. Before diamonds were discovered in Brazil in the 1700s, the Indian subcontinent was the world's only source of diamonds, mined in the Golconda region of the Daccan plateau. In fact,

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the contemporary unit of measurement for diamonds, the carat, originated in India. The term comes from the Arabic word kirat, referring to the small seed of the carob plant that was used to weigh diamonds.