

Object Summary



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Gilded Cut-Glass Bottle with Floral Motifs

Dated 1227 AH (1812 CE)

Turkey (Beykoz)

Ottoman

Cut glass, gilding

Overall: 12 x 4 3/4 in. (30.5 x 12.1cm)

This nargile (water pipe) base (one of a pair) has a rounded base resting on a circular foot. Its long, fluted neck is gilded with small floral blossoms and a band containing a cartouche. Alternating bands of gilded floral motifs and decoratively cut patterns encircle the base. This object was created in Ottoman Istanbul in the nineteenth century. During this time, goods from Europe had flooded the Ottoman market. Intent on revitalizing and modernizing Ottoman industry, Sultan Selim III (r. 1789-1807 CE) issued edicts to promote the use of local goods and established modernized factories in Istanbul, including glass factories in the district of Beykoz. European glassmakers were brought to Istanbul to offer technical and scientific advice, and soon, Ottoman-made glass appeared in original colors, shapes and sizes. “Beykoz glass” was typically embellished by cutting, gilding and enameling, conveying a sense of luxury.