

Object Summary



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Cobalt Blue Blown-Glass Ewer with Applied Decoration

19th century

Iran (Shiraz)

Qajar

Colored glass

Overall: 6 3/4 x 5 1/2 in. (17.1 x 14cm)

In Qajar Iran, proper etiquette was essential when hosting a meal. Before partaking in a meal, a ewer called an *āftāba*, was used to clean the hands of the guests, poured over their hands into a basin, or *lagan*. The ewer and basin was brought to guests following the meal to wash their right hand with which they had used to eat. This blue glass *āftāba* was created in Iran in the 1800s. Although this ewer served a utilitarian purpose, it takes on a decorative shape; the handle is formed with applied glass in a wave-like pattern, and the end of its long, graceful spout ends in a butterfly-like embellishment.