

Object Summary



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Polychrome Tile Panel with Vase Motif

17th century

Iran

Safavid

Ceramic, polychrome pigments

Overall: 99 x 45 in. (251.5 x 114.3cm)

Eagles soar among swirling clouds and diving ducks, blue and turquoise songbirds perch among flowering branches, and a tiger pounces from within leafy foliage toward a pair of unfortunate ibex. This imagery captures a continuous theme in Iranian art: the hunt. Scenes of humans and animals hunting have been depicted in the arts of Iran since pre-Islamic times, appearing in stone carving and metal vessels of the Achaemenids and Sasanians. The motif of the hunt is called Gereft-o Gir ("catching and hunting") in Persian. During the Safavid period (1501-1722 CE), artists of the court-sponsored workshops depicted hunting scenes that were shared across multiple forms of media. Gereft-o Gir was especially prominent in Safavid carpet design.