

Finch & C^o



A PERSIAN POLYCHROME LACQUERED PAPIER MACHÉ MIRROR CASE

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WITH AN UNUSUAL INTERIOR SCENE OF THE MADONNA AND CHILD PAINTED WITHIN A CARTOUCHE ON THE SILVER
HINGED INNER LID

CIRCA 1800 – 1830 – EARLY QAJAR

SIZE: 26 CM HIGH, 18 CM WIDE – 10¼ INS HIGH, 7 INS WIDE

SEE FINCH AND CO CATALOGUE NO. 7 ITEM NO. 113 FOR ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF PERSIAN LACQUER

LITERATURE

THIS SCENE OF THE MADONNA AND CHILD IS MOST PROBABLY BASED ON A EUROPEAN PAINTING, BUT THE FACES ARE PAINTED WITH THE THREE QUARTER VIEW THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF PERSIAN PAINTING. THE MOTHER IS UNVEILED AND THEY ARE BOTH WEARING EUROPEAN (ITALIAN) CORAL NECKLACES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PERSIAN ARTIST MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY SECULARISED THE IMAGE TO REPRESENT A MUSE OR A PERSONIFIED VIRTUE, RATHER THAN THE CHRISTIAN ETHIC OF THE MADONNA

IN IRAN THE DIVISION BETWEEN NON FIGURAL AND FIGURAL ART WAS MAINTAINED INTO THE 19TH CENTURY. A GROUP OF LATE SAFAVID PAINTERS AT THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY HAVING ESTABLISHED AN ECLECTIC STYLE WITH SUBJECTS DRAWN FROM EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN PAINTING.