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MINIATURE PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'IN A GOLDSMITH'S WORKSHOP'

INDIA, BUNDI; C. 1760

MINIATURE: 24.5 × 16.3 CM

Even though the style of this genre picture from Bundi lacks the refinement that characterizes Mughal art, the intensity of the colors, especially on the women's clothing, is striking. The wild, dramatic sky that heralds an approaching storm is also typical of art from Rajasthan.

The scene is a goldsmith's workshop, where the master himself has a tight grip around the calf of a Hindu woman while he attaches a ring around her ankle. A younger apprentice is keeping the forge hot with a blowpipe while he cools a ring with his right hand. A little girl is eating what looks like a parsnip as two richly bejeweled women come in, chatting enthusiastically.

Published in:

Sotheby's, New York, 9/12-1980, lot 110;
Spink & Son: *Islamic jewellery*, London 1986, fig. 1;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 55;
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Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 119;
Amin Jaffer (ed.): *Beyond extravagance: a royal collection of gems and jewels*, New York 2013, p. 169;
Navina Najat Haidar and Courtney Ann Stewart: *Treasures from India: jewels from the Al-Thani Collection*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 2014, p. 69;
Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, fig. 56, p. 239;
Amin Jaffer (ed.): *Beyond extravagance: a royal collection of gems and jewels*, 2. ed., New York 2019, vol. 1, p. 232;