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PARTLY COLORED DRAWING PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'YOUNG PRINCE WITH BRANDS ON HIS ARM'

IRAN, ISFAHAN; C. 1630

DRAWING: 15.2 × 5.7 CM

This drawing was signed by Riza-i Abbasi, the most influential Persian artist during the reign of Shah Abbas and throughout the 17th century.

The young man with the round chin – identified as Prince Kamran Shah Hindi – is a good example of the ideals of a new era. Album leaves with charming but slightly decadent courtiers seem to have dominated the artistic scene, supplemented by portraits of Sufis, wrestlers, and other personages.

Branding oneself was actually a Sufi practice, which was intended to demonstrate spiritual strength, but on a secular level it was a sign of devotion to one's beloved.

Published in:

Laurence Binyon, J. V. S. Wilkinson and Basil Gray: *Persian miniature painting : including a critical and descriptive catalogue of the miniatures exhibited at Burlington House, January-March, 1931*, London 1933, cat.no. 326 (no photo);  
Sotheby's, London 6/12-1967, lot 72;  
Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 82;