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MINIATURE PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'LOVERS IN A LANDSCAPE'

INDIA, LUCKNOW; 1760-1770

MINIATURE: 22.2 × 15.2 CM

Like many Mughal artists, Mir Kalan Khan worked in a style that seems quite eclectic. The young, rather irresolute couple seems to be related to the people from Isfahan depicted some 150 years earlier by Riza-i Abbasi, while the more down-to-earth woman entertaining them by playing a long-necked lute is purely Indian. The trees on the right are European, while the indefinable yellow background is quite original – but also very strange.

The artist nonetheless succeeded in creating a painting in which the large plane tree and the foreground in particular – with a lively gathering of animals and birds – are able to bring together the different elements to form a captivating whole.

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Molly Emma Aitken: "Parataxis and the practise of reuse, from Mughal margins to Mîr Kalân Khân" in *Archives of Asian art*, 2009, 59, fig. 10, pp. 98 and 100;
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Wendy M. K. Shaw: *What is "Islamic" art? Between religion and perception*, Cambridge 2019, p. 63 and pl. 2;