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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.

Published in:

Toby Falk and Douglas Barrett: *Gods, gardens and elephants : an exhibition, 17th June to 17th July 1981*, Colnaghi, London 1981, cat.no. 10;

Stuart Cary Welch: *India: art and culture 1300-1900*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 1985, cat.no. 187;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 53;

Stephen Markel: "Luxury arts of Lucknow" in *Arts of Asia*, 1993, 23: March-April, iss. 108-121, pp. 110-111;

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.): *Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 228;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 83;

Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 130;

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;

Stephen Markel and Tushara Bindu Gude: *India's fabled city: the art of courtly Lucknow*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles 2010, and Musée National des Arts Asiatiques Guimet, Paris 2011, p. 169;

Terence McInerney: "Mir Kalan Khan" in Milo C. Beach, Eberhard Fischer, B. N. Goswamy (eds.): *Masters of Indian painting*, vol. 2, 1650-1900, Zûrich 2011, cat.no. 10, fig. 12;

Kavita Singh: *Real birds in imagined gardens: Mughal painting between Persia and Europe*, Los Angeles 2017, figs. 1 and 2, pp. 1-11;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 53;

Wendy M. K. Shaw: *What is "Islamic" art? Between religion and perception*, Cambridge 2019, p. 63 and pl. 2;