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STEEL KNIFE WITH A HANDLE OF CARVED WALRUS TUSK IVORY
TURKEY; 1ST HALF OF 16TH CENTURY

L: 17,5 CM

The Ottoman court in Istanbul provided the framework for a varied artistic output and numerous workshops. Works of art made there set a standard that others outside the palace complex tried to copy.

This knife has a minutely carved handle with floral and palmette ornamentation that includes the large *saz* leaves that are also found on Iznik ware from the 16th century. The blade is stamped with a workshop mark in gold and small ornaments.

The knife's specific function is unknown, but the high quality of the carving indicates that it must have been made at the court in Istanbul or by craftsmen with close ties to it.

Published in:

Christie's, London, 26/4-2005, lot 152;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Flora islamica: plantemotiver i islamisk kunst*, Davids Samling, København 2013, cat.no. 49;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Fighting, Hunting, Impressing. Arms and Armour from the Islamic World 1500-1850*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2021, cat.no. 35 and Appendix, p. 276;

