



Inv. no. Tex 31

PILE PRAYER RUG, PASHMINA WOOL AND COTTON

INDIA; 1ST HALF OF 18TH CENTURY

H: 166.5; W: 120 CM

This rug belongs to the group of *millefleurs* carpets that are characterized by finely patterned floral decoration, frequently arranged in groups of three, four, or seven flowers. The flowers on this rug grow from a vase in front of the light-colored niche that in typical Indian fashion is topped by a lobed arch. The space around the arch is like the borders also filled with fine floral ornamentation.

*Millefleurs* carpets were made from exquisite pashmina wool, the fine winter inner coat of hair from the wild goats that live in mountainous Kashmir. This especially fine wool made it possible to produce rugs with an unusually high density of knots, which combined with the shiny wool made these rugs resemble woven silk velvets.

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