



Inv. no. 30/1997

AMULET CASE WITH THE ISLAMIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

INDIA; 16TH-17TH CENTURY

H: 6.8; W: 6.8 CM

The Islamic profession of faith, *shahada*, is already found in the earliest Islamic art and architecture. It is often reproduced in the form of decorative calligraphic inscriptions, both on a large scale, for example on mosque facades, and in very small formats, for example on coins. The profession of faith is not written in the Koran as such, but is found implicitly in certain chapters (*suras*).

This amulet case features the profession of faith three times – once on each of the three narrow sides. A number of selected verses from the Koran are found on the large surfaces. It is not unusual for amulet cases like this one to have contained a book with prayers or even an entire section of the Koran in miniature.