



Inv. no. 19/2011

CAT. 16. LAMPAS-WOVEN TEXTILE, SILK

INDIA; C. 1600–1620

H: 201.5; W: 97 CM

This textile, together with many other *qanat* panels, embellished the walls in a large princely tent. The motif is a male musician, perhaps a dancer, who is playing cymbals.

He stands in a niche and is dressed in a green loincloth, has a sash around his waist and a shawl elegantly wrapped around his arms. He might also be wearing a transparent blouse, its edges seen just above the elbows and at the neck, but this might simply be jewelry, like his bracelets, necklace, and earring. The turban is typical of the kind worn in Mughal India at this time, and elegant sandals complete his dress. The figure itself is conceived quite statuesquely and stiffly, with the face in quarter profile, the upper body seen from the front, and the feet and legs seen from the side.

The textile could be viewed as an ornament, a decoration, and a symbol. An ornament because it was one of a large number of related

figures. A decoration because the depiction is generic and does not refer to a specific event. And a symbol because, together with many others of different kinds, the figure refers to the prince's universal power.