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CAT. 63. DISH OF *BIDRI* METAL WITH INLAID BRASS FLOWERS

INDIA, DECCAN; 2ND HALF OF 17TH CENTURY

From the 12th to the 15th century, Islamic metalworkers were famous for their inlaid bronze and brass. As in other art forms, depictions of the plant world were quite stylized or abstract.

Indian artists seem to have been more infatuated with what was found in the real world. Without the plants on a dish like this being naturalistic, their movement and energetic style seem to make them real. Indo-Islamic art displays an exuberance and sensuality that are greatly indebted to Hindu culture.

The velvet-black or gray *bidri* metal forms a lovely contrast to inlaid brass or silver, and in this case, all the decoration comes from the plant world, from the stylized center and borders to the more naturalistic main section.