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FRITWARE TILE PANEL, PAINTED IN BLUE, TURQUOISE, AND MOSS GREEN UNDER A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

TURKEY, IZNIK; C. 1540

H: 61.2; W: 79 CM

Changes were made in the decoration on Iznik ceramics in around 1540. The very dense patterns that characterized the *Baba Nakkas* and *tughrakes* styles were replaced by a more naturalistic and spacious style in which plants – often of a local character – dominated. At the same time, the palette was expanded with moss green and manganese.

These elegant tiles with hyacinths, tulips, and cherry branches were designed so that at least two are needed for the motif to be complete. Other panels might be made up of many individual tiles, which together created a more complicated composition.

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