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FRITWARE TILE PAINTED IN BLUE AND IN LUSTRE OVER AN
OPAQUE, WHITE GLAZE

IRAN, KASHAN; 13TH CENTURY

DIAM: 22.5 CM

Where figurative elements are found in decoration in the Islamic world, they are often used as ornaments. The most common true-to-life depictions are stylized renditions of animals and human figures, but virtually all motifs can be found in illustrations for scientific and literary works.

This tile provides a good example of the subtle Il-Khanid blending of human figures and plant forms. First a simple plant motif was painted in blue on a white background. Not until lustre was added were the figures given depth and body. We do not know whether they are well-known characters from Persian literature or were intended to be purely decorative.

Published in:
Unpublished;