



Inv. no. 2/1971

TILE WITH A SPHINX

IRAN; 12TH-13TH CENTURY

H: 7.5; L: 13.5 CM

When sphinxes seem to have a symbolic significance, they frequently appear as guardians of a princely personage or the Tree of Life, the ancient image of creative force and fertility.

The traditional rendition of a sphinx as a lion with a human head largely disappeared from Islamic art with the advent of the Mongols in the middle of the 13th century. A new sphinx-like figure did, however, appear later in the form of Buraq, Muhammad's winged creature, with the body of a horse and the face of a woman.

Published in:
Unpublished;

