



Inv. no. 19/2011

LAMPAS-WOVEN TEXTILE, SILK. "MUSICIAN WITH CYMBALS"

INDIA; C. 1600–1620

H: 201.5; W: 97 CM

This textile, just over two meters tall, was presumably woven in one of the Great Mughal's studios to be sewn together with similar pieces to decorate a princely tent.

A highly Indian niche encloses a musician who can be seen from both the front and the side. He wears a typical Mughal turban, two shawls, and a loincloth (*dhoti*). Very much alive yet statue-like, he must have made a fantastic impression alongside other figures.

There are two related tent panels (*qanat*), one with an elegant courtier in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and another with a female harem guard in the Khalili Collection in London. Both, however, are in rather poor condition.

Making such large and complex figurative textiles without repeating the motif requires a true overview of the whole, and they were hardly

surpassed anywhere in their day.

The tent panel most likely comes from the Amber Palace in Jaipur.

Published in:

Francesca Galloway: *Imperial past: India 1600-1800*, Galloway, London 2011, pp. 2-5;

Rahul Jain: *Indian lampas-weave silks in the collection of the Calico Museum of Textiles, Ahmedabad*, Ahmedabad 2013, mentioned p. 26;

Steven Cohen: "Two outstanding Mughal qanat panels in the David Collection, with technical analyses and drawings of weaving structures by Anne-Marie Keblow Bernsted" in *Journal of the David Collection*, 4, 2014, p. 170, figs. 1, 7 and 13;

Louise W. Mackie: *Symbols of power: luxury textiles from Islamic lands, 7th–21st century*, Cleveland 2015, fig. 10.6, p. 414;

Rosemary Crill (ed.): *The fabric of India*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London 2015, fig 106, p. 104:

Ole Zethner [et al.]: *South Asian ways of silk: a patchwork of biology, manufacture, culture and history*, Guwahati, Assam 2015, p. 123;

Rahul Jain: *Textiles and garments at the Jaipur court*, New Delhi 2016, cat.no. 5, pp. 44-45;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 16;