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CAT. 38. ALBUM LEAF WITH NATURALISTIC FLOWERS

INDIA, MUGHAL; C. 1630-1640

The Great Mughal Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) was captivated by nature, both animals and plants, and depictions of them and court portraits achieved a high degree of naturalism during his reign. This trend continued under his son Shah Jahan (r. 1628-1657), from whose early reign the border of this album leaf probably dates, though the painting of King David is from Jahangir's reign.

Jahangir is said to have become interested in flowers during a trip to Kashmir in 1620, but the European engravings and paintings that had already arrived at the Delhi court during the reign of his father, Akbar (r. 1556-1605), were also an important factor.

David was copied directly from a Flemish engraving, and the flowers were influenced by contemporary European botanical works, florilegia.

