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CAT. 54. CERAMIC DISH WITH CHINESE-INSPIRED FLOWER

IRAN, KIRMAN?; 17TH CENTURY

Innumerable copies of blue and white Chinese export porcelain were made in Iran from the 15th to the 17th century. The quality varied, and only rarely did the results have independent artistic value.

This magnificent dish does, its design created by the potter cutting through the intense blue slip down to the white fritware.

While the simple pattern on the rim, consisting of double split leaves joined by a five-petaled flower, shows ties to Islam, the nervously quivering plant in the center is oriented toward China.

The plant has four lotus-like flowers, a few simple little leaves, and other more eccentric ones that resemble the jagged cloud ornaments that surround or perhaps emerge from the flowers.