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SAMITUM-WOVEN TEXTILE WITH SUNFLOWERS, SILK AND METAL LAMELLA

IRAN; 1ST HALF OF 17TH CENTURY

H: 77; W: 70.5 CM

Flowers were a favorite motif for the textiles woven in the three great “gunpowder empires” – Safavid Iran, Ottoman Turkey, and India under the Great Mughals. Some are highly stylized, while others are more naturalistic, like this one. The sunflower or chrysanthemum-like flower is seen in full bloom *en face* in some places, and in a more bud-like stage in profile in others. The elegant, scrolling leaves are contrasted with the perfectly vertical stems, and a purely ornamental feature is the little flowers that decorate the largest leaf.

Metal was used in profusion, and an even greater effect was achieved by winding the silver lamella around a beige silk core, while gold thread was wound around yellow silk.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 671;

Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (eds.): *Cosmophilia. Islamic Art from the David Collection*, Copenhagen, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, Boston 2006, cat.no. 73;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Flora islamica: plantemotiver i islamisk kunst*, Davids Samling, København 2013, cat.no. 58;