



Inv. no. 5/1992 & 6a/1992

CARVED WOODEN PANELS, PERHAPS FROM DOORS

EGYPT; 11TH CENTURY
H: 44.2; W: 15.5 CM (5/1992)

H: 38.7; W: 15.8 CM (6A/1992)

The wooden panels are decorated with tendrils, but also with a man seated with a glass and a decanter, a seated flute-player, and a peacock. Together with dancers and hunting scenes, these are motifs of a type that refers to the princely life and was very popular in the Islamic Middle Ages.

Very little remains today of the decorations that ornamented the Fatimids' palaces in Cairo. A few wooden panels have survived because this costly material was reused in the architecture of the Mamluk period, when picture friezes – which were controversial in certain Islamic contexts – were turned inward so that they could not be seen.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.):
Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 122;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 418;