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MINIATURE PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'YOUNG WOMAN WITH A FAN'

IRAN, ISFAHAN; 1590-1600

LEAF: 23.5 × 15.2 CM

There is an almost identical painting made by Riza-i Abbasi (1565-1635) in the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

This artist, who was permitted by Shah Abbas to add the ruler's name to his own, was the one who decidedly set the tone in 17th-century Iran. He had many pupils and imitators, and if this charming but unsigned painting was not made by the artist himself, then it was at least painted by one who knew and mastered his style to perfection.

The way in which the young woman's eyebrows meet is almost a Riza hallmark, and the fine treatment of the folds of the various textiles is also typical, though more common. The depiction is less mannered than many later portraits.

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