



Inv. no. 34/1981

CAT. 52. "A PRINCE WITH HIS BELOVED." MINIATURE PASTED ON CARDBOARD

INDIA, JAIPUR; C. 1740

THE MINIATURE H: 23.4; W: 17.8 CM

Only to a very small degree do human figures in Islamic painting express emotions, whether they are on the battlefield or in more pleasant circumstances. Even in intimate depictions with fewer people, it is rare for them to interact in a way that can be interpreted as emotional involvement.

This painting differs by displaying intense emotions, by showing a couple entwined in a tender embrace. With her enraptured gaze at the prince's face and her grip on his arm, the woman is an incarnation of love's physical rapture. Her male counterpart, in turn, raises a little cup toward her lips.

The painting seems on the one hand to be a portrayal of two real people, a double portrait, but also a kind of symbolic image of love between a man and a woman.

