MRA-IRN-Isf001

SAMPLE ID:
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SAMPLE TYPE:
Mural painting
(Sub-Type: fragment)

DIMENSIONS:
1.9 cm L x 7.9 cm W

WEIGHT:
109.02 g

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:
Country
Iran
Place
Isfahan

SITE/MONUMENT:
Ali Qapu Palace

HISTORICAL NOTE ABOUT THE SITE/MONUMENT:
The Ali Qapu was built gradually as a center for courtly life across from Isfahan’s main square, Maydan-i Imam (formerly Maydan-i Shah). Construction was begun by Safavid Shah ‘Abbas I in the late 16th century and likely finished around the mid-17th century. The lavish interiors and portico of the palace feature remarkable mural paintings by Reza Abbasi and his school, which are characterized by elegant forms and flat fields of color accented by delicate modeling. Also notable is the stunning ceiling of the palace’s Music Hall. It is embellished with plaster muqarnas that may have provided improved acoustics as well as visual spectacle.

Further reading:
CHRONOLOGICAL PERIOD (SAMPLE):
16th-17th century

PHOTOS/DOCUMENTS (PROVENANCE):
The Music Hall at ‘Ali Qapu (public domain),

Safavid mural painting at the palace (photo by Peter Chou Kee Liu,
https://www.flickr.com/photos/peteropaliu/8784197246/
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