Window

Place of origin: Tunisia (made)

Date: 1883 (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Carved stucco and stained glass

Museum number: 1277-1883

Gallery location: Islamic Middle East, Room 42, The Jameel Gallery, case WES, shelf EXP

Public access description

Glazed windows of this type, both plain and decorative, are found in traditional buildings in Turkey and the Arab lands. They are usually set at a high level, over unglazed windows that are sometimes covered by shutters and screens.

This window was made for display at the International Colonial Exhibition held in Amsterdam in 1883. It consists of small pieces of glass of different colours arranged in patterns within a plaster framework. It provides a late example of Islamic geometric ornament, in which balance among the individual design components is no longer maintained. One element, the starbursts based on a sixteen-pointed star, is visually dominant.

Descriptive line

Plaster window with coloured glass in a multiple-starburst pattern, Tunisia, 1883.

Physical description

This Tunisian Islamic stained glass window is carved from a rectangular slab of stucco and backed with red, green, yellow, orange and blue glass. The design is based around an elaborate geometric star pattern. The perforations are carved with a downward slant to direct incoming back-light to the floor. The design is topped with a carved lobed arch.

Museum number

1277-1883

Object history note

Made for the International Colonial Exhibition held in Amsterdam in 1883.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O117386/window-unknown/