Painting - Ali Quli, Bahadur Khan and Akbar

Object: Painting
Place of origin: Mughal Empire (made)
Date: ca. 1590-95 (made)
Artist/Maker: Kesav Kalan (maker)
Madhav Kalan (maker)
Materials and Techniques: Painted in opaque watercolour and gold on paper
Museum number: IS.2:20-1896
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

This illustration to the Akbarnama by Kesav Kalan and Madhav Kalan is the left half of a double-page composition (right half being IS.2:19-1896), and depicts the submission of the rebel brothers Ali Quli Khan and Bahadur Khan to Akbar at Karah in 1561. The Akbarnama (Book of Akbar) was commissioned by the emperor Akbar as the official chronicle of his reign. It was written by Abu'l Fazl between 1590 and 1596 and is thought to have been illustrated between about 1592 and 1594 by at least 49 different artists from Akbar's studio. After Akbar's death in 1605, the manuscript remained in the library of his son, Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) and later that of Shah Jahan (r. 1628-1658). The purchased it in 1896 from Mrs Frances Clarke, the widow of Major-General John Clarke. He bought it in India while serving as Commissioner of Oudh between 1858 and 1862.

Descriptive line

Painting, Akbarnama, submission of rebel brothers Ali Quli and Bahadur Khan, outline by Kesav, painting Madhav, opaque watercolour and gold on paper, Mughal, ca. 1590-95

Physical description

Painting, in opaque watercolour and gold on paper, left half of double composition, this painting depicts the submission of the rebel brothers Ali Quli Khan and Bahadur Khan to Akbar at Karah in 1561.

Dimensions
Height: 32.7 cm

Museum number
IS.2:20-1896

Object history note

The Akbarnama was commissioned by the emperor Akbar as the official chronicle of his reign. It was written by Abu'l Fazl between 1590 and 1596 and is thought to have been illustrated between about 1592 and 1594 by at least 49 different artists from Akbar's studio. After Akbar's death in 1605, the manuscript remained in the library of his son, Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) and later that of Shah Jahan (r. 1628-1658). The Museum purchased it in 1896 from Mrs Frances Clarke, the widow of Major-General John Clarke, who bought it in India while serving as Commissioner of Oudh between 1858 and 1862.

Historical significance: It is thought to be the first illustrated copy of the Akbarnama. It drew upon the expertise of some of the best royal painters of the time, many of whom receive special mention by Abu'l Fazl in the A'in-i-Akbari. The inscriptions in red ink on the bottom of the paintings name the artists.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O9318/ali-quli-bahadur-khan-and-painting-kesav-kalan/