



Islamic & Indian Paintings: The Dexter Collection Part II (16 Jul 2021 A)

Fri, 16th Jul 2021

Viewing:

Viewing by appointment only.

Fri 9 July, 10am to 5pm

Mon 12 July, 10am to 5pm

Tue 13 July, 10am to 5pm

Wed 14 July, 10am to 8pm

Thu 15 July, 10am to 5pm

Evening View

Wed 14 July, 6pm to 8pm

Please contact the [Department](#) to book an appointment.

Lot 25a

Estimate: £1500 - £2000 + Fees

SHRI RAMA AND SITA ON A THRONE Possibly Chamba or Basohli, Punjab Hills, Northern India, 19th century

SHRI RAMA AND SITA ON A THRONE

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Opaque pigments heightened with gold on paper, the horizontal composition a replica of a known painting of the Hindu God Rama enthroned with Sita next to him, depicting the God and his consort, both seated on a polygonal throne with cusped backrest, the feet of the throne in the typical design of *charpai* (or *mir-i farsh*) feet, the couple wearing several strands of pearls and encrusted golden jewellery, Rama with his iconic bow and the typical Basohli crown with lotus buds, his brother Lakshmana standing to the right and wearing a similar crown, whilst agitating a fly-whisk over the head of the beloved couple, to the left the Hindu god Hanuman, holding his hands in prayer, demonstrating his devotion to Rama and his wife, the scene set against the vibrant and traditional Punjab Hills ochre-yellow background, and within black and white rules and bright red borders, the recto plain, 18.4cm x 27.5cm.

Our lot seems to be a later copy of a Basohli composition dated 1690 - 1700, once part of the Alice Boner collection and currently part of the Rietberg Museum's collection. For further reference, please see R. Skelton, *Indian Miniatures from the XVth to XIXth Centuries*, 1961, pl. 32.

The vibrant and dramatic effect of this painting is achieved through the use of limited compositional elements which are magnified to a larger size suited to fill the picture. Another typical element featuring in the creations of Basohli, Chamba and Nurpur schools is the use of a pulsating, vivid background with ochre yellow as primary colour, framed within bright red borders; a chromatic duo which not only exalted the figures but also provided the perfect backdrop for the artist to depict further coloured and patterned textiles as ornaments for his subjects (C. Glynn in *Ragamala: Paintings from India*, 2011, p. 47).

Qty: 1

18.4cm x 27.5cm