

ARCADE FROM THE PALACE OF THE SHAH OF TEHRAN

Artist: Unknown

Date: 1587 ca.

Dimensions: 170 x 361 x 5 cm

Material: Glazed and decorated terracotta

Inventory Number: 125644, 4101

Total Cost: € 23.395,00

Among the many items donated in 1934 by the La Farina family from Palermo, which included a large collection of ceramics, stoneware and pottery, this ornamental arch stands out for its beauty and rarity. According to archival sources, the arch comes "from Tehran and was originally a palace of the Shah, who 80 years ago [Editor's note: 1830] ordered the demolition of the wall where it was attached to present this arch as a gift to a European ambassador." This elegant arch dates back to the late 16th century when it was located in a palace of Shah Abbas I (1557-1629) as decoration. The arch is made of glazed and baked clay tiles and depicts a so-called "scene di genere" with an array of people and plants. Historical texts state the arch was completed in 1587, the year Shah Abbas ascended to the throne. He was the first Safavid Shah to settle in Persia. The dismantling and donation of the arch took place between 1831 and 1896 under the reign of Nasser al Din Shah Qajar.

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The overall conditions of the arch are fairly good. However, the tiles are not in the proper position and the stuccos are fading progressively. There is a large layer of dust and deposits on the whole surface.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Scientific studies
- Photographic and graphic documentation
- Microaspiration and cleaning of the surface
- Dismantling of some of the tiles in order to transfer them in the proper position
- Consolidation of the overall piece
- Construction of a new base for a better display

