



Unidentified artist
Mughal, Jahangir reign (1605 – 1627)
Perforated Screen, 1605–27
sandstone
Special Acquisition Fund, 2019.16.3

About the Art

- Mughal Indian windows in all types of buildings were filled with carved stone *jalis*, perforated screens that allowed for ventilation and control of the light, heat, and glare of the sun. Most importantly, due to the depth and complexity of the pattern carved into the stone, they could be seen through only from the inside, ensuring privacy from the world outside.
- Jalis differ greatly in format – some vertical, others horizontal, and others square. Some of their designs are floral, and some are geometric and curvilinear, as in this case.
- The design here is especially complex, featuring rectangles rotating around a central square with two circles organizing the pattern. The square format of this jali reinforces the power of its geometry.