



Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600
opaque watercolor on paper, heightened with gold
16 7/8 x 11 3/4 in.
Gift of Wendy Findlay
83.7

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600

Under Mughal leadership in northern India, Hindu and Muslim subjects lived together in relative harmony. Likewise, artistic cultures blend in this watercolor of a captured and bound elephant. While the subject is Mughal, the landscape and architectural elements are Persian in manner. The intricate Persian-style border was possibly added by a dealer at the time of the watercolor's completion to make the work more suitable for framing.



Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600
opaque watercolor on paper, heightened with gold
16 7/8 x 11 3/4 in.
Gift of Wendy Findlay
83.7

DISCUSS

Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600

This watercolor blends cultural influences. It features the Mughal subject of a captured elephant, yet the treatment of the rocks, the style of architecture, and the colors of the landscape indicate a Persian influence.

Roll your cursor over the image to magnify.

- What are the figures doing? What is going on?
- What details do you see in the background?
- Which items are in the distance? Which parts of the image look like they are closest to us? How can you tell?
- What colors do you see?
- What lines and shapes do you see?

Although the border is not original to the painting, it was likely made during the same time period. It shows the use of gold, vivid colors, intricate patterns, and careful attention to detail characteristic of Persian painting.

Take a close look at the border. Can you find any lines, shapes, or colors in the painting that are echoed in the border?



Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600
opaque watercolor on paper, heightened with gold
16 7/8 x 11 3/4 in.
Gift of Wendy Findlay
83.7

CREATE

Unknown (Deccan or North Indian, Mughal)
Captive Elephant, ca. 1600

This watercolor of the *Captive Elephant* was completed by the artist, and the decorative border was added later. What do you think about the border? Does it work well with the painting? What would the watercolor look like with a different border or with no border at all?

Now it's your turn to experiment with borders. Take a look at the following images from WCMA's collection and choose one for which you would like to design a frame.

Pick one image and print it. Use markers, colored pencils, or collage materials to design a border to surround the image. What lines, shapes, colors, and patterns could you use in your border to reflect or complement the image?



H.O. Bamuari (Italian?, dates unknown)
Portrait of Mrs. Perry (?), 1901
oil on canvas
28 15/16 x 22 1/16 in.
Anonymous gift
93.1.181



Charles Prendergast (American, 1863–1948)
Blue Tree, ca. 1927–1929
watercolor and pencil on paper
8 7/8 x 9 1/2 x 3/4 in.
Bequest of Mrs. Charles Prendergast
Catalogue Raisonné: CMO #2357
95.4.43



Charles Prendergast (American, 1863–1948)
Circus, 1940
tempera and gold leaf on incised, gessoed masonite
24 7/16 x 23 3/4 in.
Gift of Mrs. Charles Prendergast
Catalogue Raisonné: CMO #2306
86.18.34



Unknown (Kiowa artist)
Two Kiowas, 1880
pencil and crayon on paper
7 1/16 x 9 15/16 in.
53.7.1