



1743

Opaque watercolor, gold,  
and ink on paper  
14 x 10 inches (35.6 x 25.4 cm)

INDIA (ANDHRA PRADESH,  
PROBABLY HYDERABAD)

### LET'S LOOK

Describe the people and animals  
you see in the picture.

What activities are taking place?

### LET'S LOOK AGAIN

What colors, shapes, and  
patterns do you see?  
Where are they repeated?

Describe the **mood** of the picture.  
How did the artist create  
this feeling?

## CELEBRATION OF THE WEDDING OF MANOHAR AND MADHUMALATI

PAGE FROM AN ILLUSTRATED MANUSCRIPT OF THE *GULSHAN-I 'ISHQ*  
(ROSE GARDEN OF LOVE)

This painting comes from a **manuscript** of the *Gulshan-i 'Ishq* (GOOL-shan-ee-ayshq) (Rose Garden of Love), a romantic tale composed by the poet Nusrati in 1657–58. Although written for a Muslim ruler, the *Gulshan-i 'Ishq* was actually inspired by a Hindu folk story. The manuscript, which boasts ninety-seven exquisite illustrations, was made in 1743 for a royal **patron**.

The main story of this long poem is the meeting, separation, longing, and marriage of Prince Manohar and Princess Madhumalati (mad-who-MAL-ah-tee). This section of the poem describes the couple's wedding celebration, an event that traditionally lasts several days in India. The illustration shows some of the festivities leading up to the wedding ceremony. In the lower left, several men play horns and drums. Women dance to the music, their hands and feet painted with **henna**. Facing them, a group of people carry a colorful silk canopy and balance gifts on their heads. Many people wear bright, festive clothing for the occasion. In the **background**, men on elephants and horses march in procession, playing musical instruments and carrying red banners. Fireworks explode around them, lighting up the night sky.

The lines of text at the top are written in Deccani Urdu, the language of the Muslim elite in this part of India, and are read from right to left. Here, the poet uses the **imagery** of light, in particular the sun and moon, to refer to Manohar and Madhumalati. Just as the light of the day meets the light of the night, the bride and groom will soon meet on their wedding day to join as husband and wife.

Philadelphia Museum of Art: The Philip S. Collins Collection, gift of Mrs. Philip S. Collins in memory of her husband, 1945-65-22 (page 410)