

# AMIR MOHTASHEMI



## Two Ottoman Textile Panels

Circa: Ottoman Empire, 18th/19th century

Ottoman Empire, 18th or 19th century

Silk embroidered with metal threads

18cm high, 18cm wide

Stock no.: A4630

These two striking square pieces of Ottoman embroidery in heavily padded gold gilt thread on gold silk was most likely part of a pouch or purse, perhaps used during pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina. The high-quality design is ornamented with sequences, floral decorative elements in four corners, and Arabic inscriptions in the central medallion. The inscriptions express the *Shahada* ['The Testimony'] declaring belief in the oneness of God (*tawhid*) and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's prophet, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. The righthand fragment reads *lā `ilāha `illā llāh* ['There is no god but Allah'] whilst the left fragment reads *muḥammadun rasūlu llāh* ['Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.']. The embroidery throughout is in the *dival* style.<sup>1</sup>

Similar embroidery is found on the cover of the Bayram Tahtı ['Festivity Throne'], used by the Ottoman sultans in the Topkapı Palace.<sup>2</sup>

[1] Sumru Belger Krodts. *Flowers of Silk & Gold: Four Centuries of Ottoman Embroidery*. Washington, D.C.: Merrell Publishers, 2000, p.42.

[2] See Cengiz Köseoğlu. *Topkapı: The Treasury*, translated and edited by J.M. Rogers. London: Thames and Hudson, 1987, p. 61, ill. 2.

