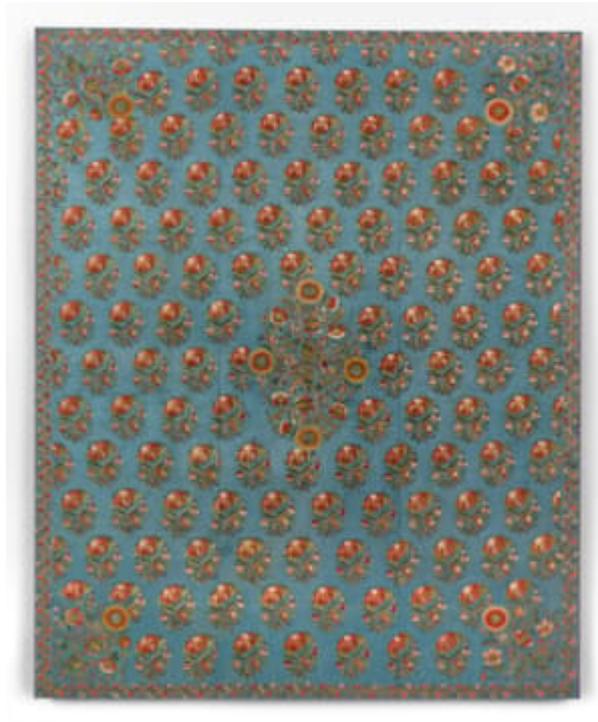


A M I R M O H T A S H E M I



Ottoman Embroidered Textile

Ottoman Turkey, 18th century

Satin embroidered with silk and metal threads

Approx. 157 x 193 cm

Stock no.: A6106

Provenance: Francesca Galloway, London, probably acquired before 1992 in London or Paris;

Sotheby's, New York, Carpets Sale N08377, 13 December 2007, Lot 28;

US private collection.

An outstanding example of eighteenth-century Ottoman embroidered textile. Pink roses are embroidered onto the blue silk satin ground in metal-wrapped and silk threads. At the centre and corners are more elaborate floral bursts, featuring sunflowers face on. The border is decorated with a vine from which sprout different flowers and leaves. The flowers would have been sketched out and then filled with tambour stitch, a chain stitch created with a hook. This stitch originated in India and is now closely associated with suzani textiles.¹ The stems of the roses stand out, stitched in metal-wrapped

threads.

The staggered rows of roses resemble the layout of contemporaneous Persian textiles, such as three fragments in the George Washington Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. (accession nos [3.273](#), [3.183](#), and [3.113](#)). The distinguishing feature of the Ottoman examples is that they are hand-embroidered, rather than woven on a loom.

This large textile may have been a bedspread (*yorgan yüzü*) or wall hanging to keep the home warm in winter. The rich silks were also used as ostentatious status symbols. The Sünnet, or circumcision ceremony, was an occasion to display a family's most precious textiles. Celebrated in the women's quarters, a professional would come to the home to dress a bed with canopies and covers.²

A barber's apron made from similar blue satin and embroidered with flowers in tambour stitch is in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (accession no. [T.258-1934](#)), dated to the 18th century.³ Another similar barber's apron and matching towel, dated to the second half of the 18th century, are in the Sadberk Hanım Museum, Istanbul (nos. SHM 12129 – İ.1185 and SHM 12130 – İ.1186).⁴ In the same collection, there are two blue wrapping cloths embroidered with tambour stitch on a blue ground, also dated to the 18th century. One is decorated with grape vines (SHM 10447 – İ.1047) and the other with tents (SHM 10682 – İ.1109).⁵

[1] Royal School of Needlework, 'Jacket' RSN.23, retrieved online via <https://collections.royal-needlework.org.uk/object-rsn-23> on 12th November 2025.

[2] Taylor, Roderick. *Ottoman Embroidery*. Wesel: Uta Hülsey, 1993, p. 110.

[3] Pictured in Johnstone, Pauline. *Turkish Embroidery*. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 1985, pl. 9, cat. 33.

[4] Pictured in Hülya, Bilgi and İdil Zambak. *Ottoman Embroideries in the Sadberk Hanım Museum Collection: Skill of the Hand, Delight of the Eye*. Istanbul: Vehbi Koç Foundation / Sadberk Hanım Museum, 2012, cat. 36, pp. 138–139.

[5] *Ibid.*, cat. 18, pp. 94–95 and cat. 20, pp. 1001–101.