

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



Iznik Dish

Ottoman Turkey, ca. 1575

Fritware painted with white slip and polychrome decoration under a clear glaze

30 cm diameter

Stock no.: HS98

Provenance: Jean Soustiel, Paris;

Sotheby's, London, Important Spanish and Iznik Pottery from a European Private Collection, 11 October 2006, lot 77.

A polychrome Iznik dish decorated with wavy sprigs of prunus, hyacinth, carnations, and tulips, surrounded by a flanged rock and wave rim. The broken stem of the carnation marks a move towards more naturalistic compositions, a style which reached its highpoint between 1565 and 1585.¹

Tiles decorated with similar undulating stems decorated the Rustem Pasha mosque, Istanbul, constructed between 1560 and 1561. This pattern, in turn, mimics textiles such as a 16th-century silk fragment in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York ([no. 52.20.23a,b](#)).

An unusual feature is the rocky protuberance from the tuft of grass. This feature is also seen on two dishes dating to ca. 1570 in the Musée de la Renaissance, Écouen (nos. E.CI.8184 and E.CI.9606).²

A similar dish, dated to the 16th century and also measuring 30 cm diameter, is in the Museum of Sèvres (no. [MNC20836](#)). Another, also with hyacinth, tulips, and carnations with broken stems, is held in the Musée de la Renaissance, Écouen (no. E. Cl. 8088).³

[1] Hitzel, Frédéric, and Mireille Jacotin. *Iznik : L'aventure d'une collection*. Paris : Réunion des musées nationaux, 2005, p. 177.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 191, cats 255 and 256.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 178, cat. 217.