

# AMIR MOHTASHEMI



## **Kutch Dagger (Kard)**

Bhuj, Kutch, India, 19th century

Gilt copper, velvet on wood, glass, watered steel

29 cm long (unsheathed); 36.5 cm long (sheathed)

Stock no.: A6112

A *kard* dagger from Bhuj, Kutch (now Kachchh) with a straight, single-edged watered steel blade. Gilt-copper panels are applied at locket and chape of the scabbard, which is wooden and covered with red velvet. The scabbard terminates with a duck head finial. The hilt is formed from a gilt copper false tang decorated with flowers, held between dark green glass grips. Two gemstones are mounted on each side in rosette gold collar mounts. The bolster is decorated with a curling acanthus motif, a favourite motif of the Mughals.

Two daggers in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (accession nos. [3390&A/\(IS\)](#) and [3389&A/\(IS\)](#)) are attributed to Bhuj, 19th century. They are similar to our dagger, the former featuring a duck finial to on its scabbard and the latter a similar acanthus leaf on its bolster, but they have elongated recurved pesh kabz blades.

The most famous workshop in Bhuj was that of Oomersee Majwee workshop, which produced ornate silver and work in the 1890s. A pepper-pot in the British Museum (accession no. [2011.3014.28](#)), dated to 1890 and with the mark of that workshop, features very similar flower patterns to our dagger. The

most famous examples of arms and armour from Bhuj is the eponymous axe-knife, many of which feature the same stippled gilt copper decoration. See, for example, RCIN [11434](#) in the Royal Collection Trust.