

Basic Detail Report



1981.04393.01a-b

Title

Mother-of-Pearl Stationery Box

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood, Shell (mother-of-pearl), Metal

Description

A stationery box made of wood with a geometrical design of inlaid mother-of-pearl. The box has a locking hinged lid and a key.

Dimensions

14 1/2 × 9 × 4 in. (36.8 × 22.9 × 10.2 cm)

Historical Note

Intricate inlay work has been practiced in the Middle East for more than 4,500 years. Beech wood boxes are inlaid with hundreds of hand-cut pieces of iridescent mother-of-pearl that recreate an arabesque design from the seventh century. Given during then-Vice President Mubarek's visit 1981-10-02

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