



Wedding Headdress

Date

1644-1911

Medium

Silk, gemstones, and kingfisher feathers

Description

The design of this elaborate bridal headdress was derived from those worn by the upper classes of the Manchu court. Underlying basket-like weaves support intricate superstructures made of looped bands of chenille, attached gold wire, jade, pearls, rose quartz, and the distinct and highly prized bright blue of kingfisher feathers. These delicate elements gently shake with any movement, adding a visual effect to the wearer's stride.

Dimensions

7 × 10 1/2 × 9 1/2 in. (17.8 × 26.7 × 24.1 cm)