

EUROPE

Turkey
Bulgaria

Sufi Dancer

Fig. 43

Pigment on paper
Istanbul, Turkey
7 1/2" x 9 1/2"

Sufism represents a mystical approach to worship within Islam. Sufi believers engage in an ecstatic form of worship characterized by a search for purity and immersion in the divine. Practices included repetition of sacred words, immersion in sacred music and sometimes whirling dance, as displayed in this painting.



Back view (left)

This image is painted over a page of written Arabic, extracted from the Hadith, the sayings of the prophet Mohammed. This passage says, in part, "I seek forgiveness from the lord from evil doings. I seek forgiveness from the lord who created heaven and earth and mankind. O lord guide us to good paths and protect us from mischief." It asks protection from lions and serpents and genies.

Collection of Teresa Cousins, Morocco 2005-07

Tableware

Fig. 44

Glazed earthenware
Bulgaria

The bowl on the left is signed by the potter, Klara Etar. The pitcher and goblets are unsigned, but were collected during the same time period, 1999-2001. Both types of pottery are sold to both the local population and to the tourist market.

*Collection of Heather Hempel Gomez
Bulgaria 1999-2001*

