

AFGHANISTAN: HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KABUL BEGINS U.S. TOUR AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, MAY 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Overview

Revealing Afghanistan's multicultural heritage are some 228 objects ranging in date from 2200 BC to the second century AD. Drawn from four archaeological sites, they belong to the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul and include fragmentary gold bowls with artistic links to Mesopotamia and Indus valley cultures (modern-day Pakistan) from the Bronze Age site of Tepe Fullol; bronze and stone sculptures and a gilded silver plaque from the former Greek colony at Ai Khanum ("Lady Moon"); bronzes, ivories, and painted glassware that had been imported from Roman Egypt, China, and India, and excavated from ancient storerooms discovered in the 1930s and 1940s in Begram; and more than 100 gold ornaments from the "Bactrian Hoard," found in 1978 in Tillya Tepe, the site of six nomad graves, and revealing a synthesis of Greek, Roman, Persian, Indian, Chinese, and Siberian styles.