

Laquer box with landscape

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	59.74.1-2 
Type:	object for daily use; lacquers
Date of production:	1950s
Place of production:	Vietnam, Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	wood, lacquer
Dimensions:	height: 4. 8 cm diameter: 20. 5 cm

The landscape painted on top of the box depicts a "tai" home between the hills. On the stairs leading up to the entrance, a figure is making his way up the bamboo and palm-fringed house, moving further and further away from the girl squatting in the courtyard and the grazing white horse. Beyond the fence, the neighbouring estate looms, with houses in the distance.

The Vietnamese lacquer art, a prominent branch of the local handicraft industry, enjoyed a renaissance in the mid-twentieth century. What's more, the painters themselves began to experiment with incorporating lacquer into their art, as encouraged by the French artist Victor Tardieu, founder of the Indochinese College of Art. In addition to experimenting with art, the representatives of the lacquer-painting movement, which could hardly be separated from nationalist and modernist aspirations, hoped to create a distinctly Vietnamese art that could be exported.

