



Vase

Date

late 17th century

Medium

porcelain and overglaze enamel

Description

The shape and decoration of this vase are characteristic of many of the finest ceramics of the Kangxi period. The shape seems to appear in the early Kangxi period. It has a neck with a thick flaring rim-form mouth, and a wide shoulder curving down slightly to the foot. In the famille-verte palette, the neck, as in this case, often bears a sprig of bamboo executed in black overglaze enamels. The shoulder has a diaper pattern in overglaze enamels with two reserve panels illustrating the eternal knot, one of the eight Buddhist treasures. The main body of the vase is decorated exclusively in overglaze enamels – in this case, a single bird on a plum tree branch. The decoration appears to have been inspired by the academic album-leaf painting of the late Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) and very possibly from Northern Song paintings in the imperial collections. The perpendicular foot is unglazed and there is no mark on the base. The application of reign marks, while common in the Ming Dynasty, was apparently forbidden by imperial edict in 1677. This might explain the erratic appearance of reign

marks in the Kangxi period, as well as the predominance of earlier Ming reign marks and symbols used.

Dimensions

Overall: 10 x 4 in. (25.4 x 10.2 cm)