

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

mid 18th century

Medium

porcelain and overglaze enamel

Description

The Chinese have an expression: "A dragon in the water covers himself with five colors (the rainbow), therefore he

is a god. If he desires to become small, he assumes the shape of a silkworm, if he desires to become large he lies hidden in the world. If he desires to ascend, he strives towards the clouds; descend, and he enters a deep well. He whose transformations are not limited are not limited by days and whose ascending and descending are not limited by time, is called a god." The Australian aborigines talk of the Rainbow Snake, which has the power to create rain. This pair of bowls is painted entirely in polychrome overglaze enamels depicting nine dragons.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 1/2 x 5 1/8 in. (6.4 x 13 cm)