



## **Safavid Kendi**

Persia, First half of the 17th century

Ceramic with underglaze decoration

17cm high, 19cm diameter

Stock no: A5200

A blue-and-white fritware kendi (drinking vessel) painted underglaze in two shades of blue with black outlines on a white slip ground. Its squat dimensions and mammiform spout are typical of kendis of the first half of the 17th century. A scrolling band covers the flattened rim. A diaper band marks the upper neck, while panels with split leaves divide its lower part. 12 petal panels with palmettes run round the bottom of the kendi. The body is decorated with foliage and a crane with a long tail. The base is plain but for a square potter's mark in black, imitating a Chinese nien-hao (reign mark). A kendi of similar form and dimensions, dating to 1630-1650, is held in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (accession no. [1000-1876](#)). It has similar ornamentation around the neck and bottom, but different design in the body itself.

*n.b. accession nos are clickable links*