



Funerary Urn

Date

ca. 700-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and pigment

Description

Large ceramic urns such as this one have rarely been excavated in context so their exact function is debated. They are believed to be associated with tombs and other funerary offerings and in some cases, held the remains of a bundled burial. In other cases they may have been filled with resin incense that was offered to the gods during a

funerary ritual. On this example is an animated jaguar depicted in the posture of sacrifice and bordered by two human long bones. This may be a reference to the death of the royal person who commissioned this urn.

Dimensions

Overall: 18 3/8 x 17 3/4 x 17 1/4 in. (46.7 x 45.1 x 43.8 cm)