



Tripod Jar

Date

ca. 400-700

Primary Maker

Central Highlands/Atlantic Watershed

Medium

pottery and slip paint

Description

Thought to be an incense or offertory burner, this delicate tripod jar is a strong example of the Africa style. The style is characterized by modeled decorations perched above the legs, which taper to a fine point and are hollow rattles. The appliqués on this jar are vultures and trophy heads, and the vultures are likely representative of Sibó, the King

Vulture, who was an important mythological figure associated with creation and fertility. The trophy heads represent offerings to Sibó and cutting off the heads of prisoners as fertility offerings was a common ritual practice. Each of the bird decorations is slightly different, giving the vessel a fascinating narrative appearance.

Dimensions

Overall: 11 3/8 x 10 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. (28.9 x 26.7 x 21.6 cm)