

Basic Detail Report



Tripod Bowl

Date

ca. 650-750

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

marble

Description

Elaborate, carved marble bowls such as this one were made in a single valley of modern day Honduras and traded throughout the Classic Maya world. They were highly valued for the semi-translucent quality of the marble that warmed to the touch. This example has handles made in the form of a bat, an animal with close ties to both the supernatural arena of caves, believed to be entrances to the Underworld, as well as royal dynasties at sites such as Copán. Bats also thrive in cacao, or chocolate groves, another very important trade items from this part of Honduras. The volutes, or swirls, around the body of this vase may represent the movement of water or blood, but it has also been suggested they are speech scrolls or the exhalation required for speech. The upper and lower borders are meant to resemble the scales of a lizard or snake.

Dimensions

Overall: 6 3/8 x 10 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. (16.2 x 26.7 x 24.8 cm)