



False Face from Mummy Bundle

Date

1200-1450

Primary Maker

Chancay

Medium

cotton, wool, silver, feathers, braided plant fiber and paint

Description

At many Chancay burial sites, a "tomb guard" was positioned at the entrance to tombs or sacred places. A mask of this type was normally placed on top of an amorphous bundle of plain cloth. This example was made of a cotton textile stuffed with raw cotton, leaves and grasses. Other examples were made of wood or metal.

Textile masks from the Vilcahuaura area were adorned

with silver eyes, nose and mouth. Blue feathers were placed behind the metal, and wool threads simulate eye lashes. A silver band outlines the entire face which was painted with brick-red pigments. A textile band is wrapped around the head so that the tassels hang on either side of the face. Accessory tapestry bands hang from the base of the head, one of which ends in an anthropomorphic fish design.

Dimensions

Overall (Bundle): 20 1/2 × 13 1/8 × 9 1/4 in. (52.1 × 33.3 × 23.5 cm) Overall (With Hanging Elements): 67 in. (170.2 cm)