



Tripod Bowl

Date

ca. 1-700

Primary Maker

Gran Chiriquí

Medium

pottery

Description

This tripod bowl from the Chiriquí culture is characterized by anthropomorphic figures, which support the vessel. The figures have their arms up to their chests, leaning over as if they were struggling to hold up the heavy bowl. The negative space in the abdominal region of each figure

holds a tiny ceramic ball. When transported, these balls moved around in the hollow space, creating a rattling noise. The bowl is not painted with slip, which gives it a rough texture, but features a detailed design wrapping under the rim of the bowl. Chiriquí bowls such as these, which were created with well-planned designs, were likely used in shamanistic ceremonies for spiritual and medicinal purposes.

Dimensions

Overall: 5 1/4 x 5 1/4 x 4 3/4 in. (13.3 x 13.3 x 12.1 cm)