

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

This elegant bowl shows three nearly identical portraits of a ruler in a palace setting; only the hand gestures of the individual vary. Each is framed by three glyph bands that are decorative rather than literate. Known as pseudo-glyphs, these elements indicate that the artist or individual who commissioned the bowl desired to convey literacy and the knowledge of writing, even though it was out of reach. A bowl such as this would have made a fine gift to exchange with a visiting dignitary or official.

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Dimensions

Overall: 5 x 7 5/8 in. (12.7 x 19.4 cm)