



## Stirrup-spout Bottle

### Date

900-1460

### Primary Maker

Chimú

### Medium

pottery

### Description

The technique of press-molding was, according to Donnan and Mackey (1978:215), perfected by the Chimú. Moist clay was pressed into a mold which provided a quick method of decorating a surface. The central figure on the side of the vessel with a symbolic tumi on its head is a mythical creature known as the "moon animal." The same imagery appears in Ecuador in association with the idea of creation and fertility. The molded spout has a monkey clinging to its base. Although the role of the monkey is unclear in this context, it appears frequently in the art of Middle America usually in association with the Moon Goddess (Wilbert 1974:79) and creation.

### Dimensions

Overall: 10 1/4 x 5 x 4 1/8 in. (26 x 12.7 x 10.5 cm)