



Stela with Lord

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

limestone

Description

This monumental sculpture was erected to commemorate the achievements of the royal individual, probably a king or secondary lord, depicted on the front of the stela. The short hieroglyphic text on the upper left-hand side of the monument, now largely eroded, recorded his name and accomplishments. The elaborate headdress and jade jewels he wears indicate his high status. He holds his hands in a posture consistent with an incense scattering ritual, a form of offering to spirits or ancestors that royal Maya individuals performed on behalf of their lineage and city-state. Previous commentators have suggested that this lord is letting blood from his genitals but this important ritual act is rarely portrayed in stone portraiture.

Dimensions

Overall: 45 1/4 x 16 5/8 x 2 1/4 in. (114.9 x 42.2 x 5.7 cm)