



Portrait Head

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

stucco and paint

Description

The style of this stucco head, with much of its original pigment, relates to architectural stuccoes from southern Campeche. The elongated nose was considered a symbol of beauty to the Mayan elite. It was artificially extended upwards between the brows by attaching a false bridge made of wood or wax. The slightly crossed eyes were also considered a sign of nobility attained by suspending from an infant's cradleboard, an object which hung between its eyes. A slack lower lip with exposed teeth was another characteristic of portrait heads.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 3/4 x 7 1/8 x 4 1/8 in. (19.7 x 18.1 x 10.5 cm)