



Female Figure

Date

1200-1450

Primary Maker

Chanca

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

Chanca ceramics are unmistakable dull-finished, effigy vessels resembling large, pale dolls. These figures were often clothed in a manner similar to cloth dolls and are presumed to have served as "tomb guards." The flattened head represents a style of cranial deformation practiced by the Chanca. Geometric designs on face and body indicate a tradition of body painting. The white clay slip was made from a kaolin-rich clay. Black and brown were made from burnt animal matter, ground soot or mineral pigments and oxides of iron or manganese. At times, ink from cuttle fish or squid was used to produce the sepia color.

Dimensions

Overall: 22 3/4 x 12 5/8 x 5 3/8 in. (57.8 x 32.1 x 13.7 cm)