

# Basic Detail Report

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## Urn

### Date

ca. 600-900

### Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

### Medium

pottery

### Description

Like many incense burners and urns from the Maya area, spikes protrude from this piece just as they do on the trunk of an immature ceiba (*Ceiba pentandra*) tree, the world tree in Maya cosmology. This piece also portrays the Mesoamerican understanding of life and death – on one side of the vessel is a death mask, on the other is a human or god face. A knotted rope connects the two. The imagery suggests the vessel was made or used in rituals that connected the Underworld of death with the upper world of the living.

### Dimensions

Overall: 13 x 18 5/8 x 15 in. (33 x 47.3 x 38.1 cm)