



Female Figure Nursing an Infant

Date

ca. 350-550

Primary Maker

Teotihuacán

Medium

pottery and pigment

Description

Similar to the traditions of Colima and Nayarit, ceramic figurines from Teotihuacan depict the daily activities of its citizens and allow for exploration of the cultural practices of these ancient populations. This figure of a seated woman holding her infant child demonstrates the great importance placed upon motherhood by ancient Mesoamericans. Her large ear spools, greenstone necklace, and elaborate hair style indicate that she is a high-status individual. The beautiful, naturalistic style of this piece, with great attention to the braid of hair hanging down her back and the tiny hand of the baby,

conveys a dignity that was the ideal of femininity in ancient Teotihuacan. Most ceramic figurines found at Teotihuacan were located in household contexts, suggesting that they were closely related to daily domestic rituals.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 7/8 x 5 x 3 5/8 in. (20 x 12.7 x 9.2 cm)