

Basic Detail Report



Headdress (Vinchá)

Date

100 BCE - 300 CE

Medium

Gold

Description

Hammered gold, repousse headdress ornaments such as this exceptionally large one are usually attributed to the Nazca culture of southern Peru. Typically, the iconography focuses on a stylized, oblong frontal face repeated at different scales, with circular eyes and what appear to be mustaches and short beards. Rows of circles of various dimensions and zigzag patterns fill the spaces between two faces. Two pairs of perforations on either side of the central faces suggest that the object may have been worn affixed to a turban or a headdress although there are no depictions in the art of the region to confirm this use. It is thought that these items were not meant to be worn in life, but rather were attached to burial shroud mummy bundles which were then placed in tombs.

Dimensions

12 3/4 × 19 in. (32.4 × 48.3 cm)