



Backrest & Vessel for a Shaman

Date

200 BCE - 400 CE

Primary Maker

West Mexican Shaft Tomb

Medium

Ceramic and pigment

Description

Inclined tripod "backrest" vessel with flattened upper surface and zoomorphic features on the underside. This vessel is sculpted with unusually complex detail, with mamiform forelegs, butterfly design tripod rounded body volumes, abbreviated "wings," eyes of a froglike nature

and the pour spout serving as a mouth. The zoomorphic or frog-toad features of this vessel indicates its probable function in assisting the shaman who as acted as intermediary in the underworld. Burnished redware with black deposits. It may be related to the shamanic transformation theme.

Dimensions

10 1/4 × 6 3/4 × 14 1/2 in. (26 × 17.1 × 36.8 cm)