

Basic Detail Report



Head

Date

Regional Development Period (600 BC - AD 500)

Medium

Clay pottery

Description

One of a group of fragmentary figurines with exaggerated details such as noses, ears and heavy lidded eyes with large decorative ear spools and headdresses representing a shamanic priest. Most likely from the Tumaco la Tolita culture and the Esmeraldas province. The majority represent military leaders and shamans. Probably served as a material repository for spirits contacted during

ecstatic communication. Fragmentary state is likely intentional. Figure was ritually sacrificed to sever the connection between the material correlate and the supernatural signaling the conclusion of a curing ritual. This and other similar objects were previously processed with adhesive labels for identification purposes. While labels of this kind are no longer used in contemporary museum practice, they have been left on until such a time that they can be safely removed.

Dimensions

Image: 2 1/4 x 1 13/16 x 1 1/16 in. (5.7 x 4.6 x 2.7 cm)