

Basic Detail Report



Throne

Date

ca. 1000-1550

Primary Maker

Central Highlands/Atlantic Watershed

Medium

basalt

Description

Carved stone thrones for rulers or leaders are found throughout Costa Rica and the Caribbean. Elevation of important individuals relates to shamanic practice and the

mounting of various animals to travel into spirit worlds. This particular piece has a bird, human, and jaguar motif carved into the solid sides of the sturdy throne. As in the rest of ancient Mesoamerica, the jaguar is once again used as a symbol of political or spiritual authority. Other carved thrones from the site of Papagayo also have animal imagery, and the combination of bird, human, and jaguar suggests the ability of this leader to transcend the three realms of humans, forest, and sky. Status objects became increasingly important in the later periods prior to European contact.

Dimensions

Overall: 14 1/8 x 15 x 7 1/2 in. (35.9 x 38.1 x 19.1 cm)