



Incense Burner Lid

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery

Description

This representation of a female deity with jaguar characteristics is the mold-made lid to a larger vessel that would have allowed billowing clouds of smoke to swirl up and around the deity image. The bare breasts of this goddess are visible, as are her facial tattoos and elaborate ear ornaments. The female creator deity, Chak Chel, is sometimes shown with clawed hands and feet to indicate her connection with this fierce animal. It is thought that the jaguar may have been one of her animal alter egos.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 5/8 x 4 1/2 x 4 in. (24.4 x 11.4 x 10.2 cm)