



Lidded Vessel

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and specular hematite

Description

This beautiful vessel is another example of how the boundaries between the animal and human worlds were permeable in ancient Maya society. Commissioned for a funerary assemblage, the lid of this tripod vase is decorated with a finely modeled head that displays both jaguar and human characteristics. Powerful animal companion spirits accompanied the dead on their journey to the Underworld and perhaps this vessel held an offering related to such a passage.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 7/8 x 6 3/4 in. (25.1 x 17.1 cm)