



Coyote Head

Date
ca. 1350-1521

Primary Maker
Aztec

Medium
rock crystal

Description

The Aztec revered coyotes as powerful predators and these animals were the patrons of elite warrior orders. This coyote head is skillfully carved in rock crystal, a difficult mineral to sculpt. The snout, eyes, and mouth are elegantly formed, and the ears are represented by a graceful spiral, a feature that appears commonly in Aztec animal sculpture. This piece has several holes in the back suggesting that it was originally attached to a staff or costume.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 1/2 x 2 x 4 5/8 in. (6.4 x 5.1 x 11.7 cm)