



## Temple Model

### Date

ca. 300 BCE-300 CE

### Primary Maker

Nayarit

### Medium

pottery and slip paint

### Description

Nayarit art commonly depicts group scenes in architectural settings. While many are peaceful domestic events or communal celebrations such as the ballgame, this temple model has a more explicitly ritual focus. Elevated on a large supporting platform, the temple has a pyramidal roof and steep staircase. A human figure, clearly a sacrificial victim, lays motionless on the stairs with a deep chest wound, an indication that a sacrifice has been performed and the victim's heart has been removed as an offering to the gods. This temple model offers a powerful representation of one of the most extensive of Mesoamerican religious practices. Sacrifice

was seen as necessary for the origin and maintenance of the cosmos and human life, and was a complex and thoughtful process. The Nayarit tradition is characterized by a great variety of themes depicted in three-dimensional ceramic objects, and the dramatic representation of ritual sacrifice seen in this piece serves as a vivid reminder of the central role religion played in the lives of ancient Mesoamerican people.

### Dimensions

Overall: 10 x 5 1/2 x 8 3/4 in. (25.4 x 14 x 22.2 cm)