



Vase

Date

ca. 300-1550

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

onyx

Description

This three-legged onyx vase is made from a single solid block of lustrous white and black banded onyx. Two

animal heads, possibly jaguars or another large feline, have been carved as handles. Mexican onyx has been mined since antiquity in the state of Puebla. The Aztecs called this material tecali, or “house of stone.” The texture, colors, and contour of the stone have been utilized skillfully as the only decoration, turning a traditionally utilitarian form into a delicate, luxury piece.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 x 9 3/4 x 6 in. (20.3 x 24.8 x 15.2 cm)