



Finger Ring

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

shell

Description

Shell jewelry was an important component of royal costume, both for its decorative aspect but also because of the economic and ideological significance of the sea within Classic Maya society. Finger rings are extremely rare and this example was likely the work of a master craftsman. It is carved with the portrait of a ruler wearing an elaborate headdress that was decorated with five inlaid jewels, perhaps of jade or hematite.

Dimensions

Overall: 3/8 x 1 x 7/8 in. (1 x 2.5 x 2.2 cm)