



## Cylinder Vessel

### Date

ca. 600-900

### Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

### Medium

pottery and paint

### Description

Tall cylinder vases were made to serve spicy chocolate drinks with a frothy head, and have been found throughout Mesoamerica and as far north as the American Southwest. The inscribed designs on this vase are very abstract and while they contain certain phonetic elements such as yax (blue-green) and na (house), they do not appear to be decipherable. The extent of literacy in ancient Maya society is debated, but it seems clear from vases such as this one that some artists knew a few glyphs but did not have the training to construct an entire glyphic passage.

### Dimensions

Overall: 8 x 4 1/2 in. (20.3 x 11.4 cm)