



Figure

Date

ca. 1500-400 BCE

Primary Maker

Olmec

Medium

stone

Description

This Olmec stone figurine follows the tradition of combining realistic and abstract elements in the depiction of human forms. While hints of musculature and better defined hands and feet make it a slightly more naturalistic depiction, this image nevertheless adheres to strict Olmec conventions. An elongated head and slender body are enlivened with a detailed face. A pair of circular incisions suggests the presence of inlays for the eyes. The nose is long and imposing, providing the figure with a severe expression. The mouth has thick lips, which curl in a gnarled expression that is common in Olmec representations. As with other stone figurines and masks, the ears are pierced, perhaps to attach jewelry. This figure exemplifies the excellent stone carving technique of Olmec artists, who used stone tools and fiber saws to achieve delicate, highly polished effects.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 3/4 x 3 5/8 x 2 in. (22.2 x 9.2 x 5.1 cm)