



Cylinder Vessel

Date

ca. 700-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery, specular hematite, stucco and pigment

Description

Tall, cylindrical vessels like this one were made for serving a frothy and spicy chocolate drink at royal ceremonies and feasts. The ceramic vase was originally covered in a thin layer of stucco painted a bright Maya Blue to accentuate the carved glyph panels, with an elaborated ajaw glyph, which have been colored with ground specular hematite. The Maya favored the deep red of hematite for its similarity to blood, an important and precious offering.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 5 5/8 in. (21.6 x 14 x 14.3 cm)