



Female Figure

Date

3300-1500 BCE

Primary Maker

Valdivia

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

The production of votive figures, some with one hand on chin and the other over the vulva, was characteristic of female images of many native American groups, such as the Iroquois - for whom it was a charm against witchcraft, not a gesture of modesty. Valdivian examples were also depicted with androgynous characteristics, pregnant, seated on benches, and always with very well-defined hairstyles which oftentimes resembled a phallus.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 3/8 x 5/8 x 5/8 in. (6 x 1.6 x 1.6 cm)