

Basic Detail Report



Cylinder Vessel

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

This highly detailed ceramic vase depicts a procession of high ranking lords to visit a king. The king is seated on a throne, holding a shield and staff, and wearing an

elaborate headdress that may associate him with the Maya rain god, Chahk. The visitors all carry spears and may be receiving military instructions. Royal or high rank is indicated in those who wear jaguar pelts and animal companion headdresses. The beautiful, thin black lines that outline these figures, white background, and sociopolitical subject matter suggest the vessel was made at a workshop near the site of Motul de San Jose, where Ik' style artists excelled at ceramic painting. The many small drill holes in this vessel are from efforts to repair cracks in antiquity and indicate how precious this vessel was to its owner.

Dimensions

Overall: 6 1/4 x 7 1/4 in. (15.9 x 18.4 cm)