

Basic Detail Report



Face

Date

ca. 800-1200

Primary Maker

Gran Chiriquí

Medium

volcanic stone

Description

The volcanic stone used to create this piece most likely comes from the Baru Volcano, located in Chiriquí province, where the piece was found. The Baru Volcano

was highly active during the last two thousand years, so it may have been viewed as a great source of metaphysical power due to the geological impact of these seismic eruptions. Volcanic stone was commonly used during this time for the creation of decorative pieces such as small anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures. The importance of volcanic stone parallels the importance of this face to the artist. Although it is simple and worn from age, this small piece shows the use of a universal symbol - a smiling face enclosed in a circular form - which calls attention to the development of the portrait in Panamanian art.

Dimensions

Overall: 4 1/8 x 4 1/4 x 1 1/8 in. (10.5 x 10.8 x 2.9 cm)