



Double-chamber Vessel

Date

ca. 800-1200

Primary Maker

Gran Chiriquí

Medium

pottery and traces of slip paint

Description

The small size and heavy wear of this vessel suggest it was used as a serving dish. The design incorporates the

common spiritual motif of duality. Many pre-Columbian and indigenous Panamanian cultures hold the belief that for every entity a double exists in the universe, an identical individual who exists in another place. This dualistic belief creates a sense of metaphysical balance. When this vessel is filled with water, the theme of duality is well demonstrated by the equal levels of liquid in each chamber. Despite the great amount of wear on the vessel, it is still possible to see brown slip on parts of the surface. The slip would have once covered the entire vessel, indicating it was originally made to be a durable and long lasting vessel, suitable for daily use.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 3/4 x 3 1/8 x 1 5/8 in. (7 x 7.9 x 4.1 cm)