



Head Fragment

Date

300 BCE-200 CE

Primary Maker

Tumaco-La Tolita

Medium

pottery

Description

Labbe (1986:24) concludes that the proliferation of ceramic heads and other body parts in the Tumaco/La Tolita region is linked to plant-origin myths. The Griton motif, faces turned upwards with mouths agape, is a common Ancient American motif which is associated with the ritual petition for rain. The range and variety of facial types and expressions covers all ages and reveals cultural practices of head deformation, tattooing, use of drugs, and gives us a clue to the physical characteristics of the inhabitants of this area. The Tumaco/La Tolita region was a trading and religious center which attracted visitors from surrounding cultures.

Dimensions

Overall: 4 1/4 x 5 1/8 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 13 x 8.9 cm)