



Double-spout Vessel

Date

ca. 700-1000

Primary Maker

Gran Coclé

Medium

pottery and slip paint

Description

This large vessel features ornate and intricate designs, while the interior is un-slipped with no decoration. The round base would have been less desirable for storage or cooking, as it would have necessitated a stand, suggesting this vessel was made for ceremonial or funerary purposes. The primary decorative colors utilized are red, black, and white, colors common throughout the Coclé tradition. This vessel is a fine example of a variety of purple-painted pottery called Joaquin, which is a

transitional style between the Conte and Macaracas cultures. Many cultures of Panamá make extensive use of duality, which is exemplified in the double spout of this vessel. This theme, an ever-present metaphysical equilibrium, is seen in current mola designs of the Guna as well as in ancient pottery. The symmetry in the construction of this vessel combined with the intricate adornment indicates a chiefly ceremonial usage.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 1/4 x 7 x 7 in. (23.5 x 17.8 x 17.8 cm)