

# Basic Detail Report

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## Portrait Head

### Date

ca. 600-900

### Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

### Medium

stucco and paint

### Description

The style of this stucco head, with much of its original pigment, relates to architectural stuccoes from southern Campeche. The elongated nose was considered a symbol of beauty to the Mayan elite. It was artificially extended upwards between the brows by attaching a false bridge made of wood or wax. The slightly crossed eyes were also considered a sign of nobility attained by suspending from an infant's cradleboard, an object which hung between its eyes. A slack lower lip with exposed teeth was another characteristic of portrait heads.

### Dimensions

Overall: 7 3/4 x 7 1/8 x 4 1/8 in. (19.7 x 18.1 x 10.5 cm)