

Basic Detail Report



Pendant

Date

ca. 200-1550

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

rock crystal

Description

Rock crystal was used in Aztec art primarily for smaller-scale ornaments and body decoration. Though difficult to carve, the transparency of this material made it highly desirable for sculptors, whose excellent craftsmanship can be seen in the careful carving of the eyes, angular eyebrows, nose, and partially open mouth. The hair, or perhaps a helmet, is formed by intercalating lines that create a net. Small human heads or masks such as this one were worn as chest pendants throughout Mesoamerica from Olmec times until the arrival of

Europeans and had significant ritual connotations.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 1/4 x 2 x 7/8 in. (8.3 x 5.1 x 2.2 cm)