



Double-chambered vessel

Date

ca. 750–1375

Medium

Redware, slip

Description

This Sican double-chambered pot has a strap- bridge handle and narrow, tapering conical spout; the front chamber portrays a figure lying on a pillow in a hut; the rear chamber is in the form of a spondylus shell (mullu). The vessel has red line decoration over a buff slip base. The handle and spout have broken and been repaired. The tapered shape of the spout and the figure's conical headdress indicate a cultural attribution of Sican

/Lambayeque rather than Moche. The Lambayeque or Sicán culture flourished on the north coast of Peru after the Moche and just prior to the Chimú, peaking between AD 900 and AD 1100, when they were conquered by the Chimú. This vessel probably originally had a second human figure engaged in an erotic scene with the remaining figure. See comparable double-chambered spondylus effigy vessels, all with spouts rising from spondylus side, as with this vessel, on page 431 of Martínez, Cruz (1986): *Cerámica Prehispánica Norperuana: Estudio de la Cerámica Chimú de la Colección del Museo de América de Madrid*. BAR International Series 323: Oxford.

Dimensions

8 1/4 x 8 x 4 inches (21 x 20.3 x 10.2 cm)