

Basic Detail Report



Funerary urn

Date

A.D. 750-1200

Medium

Ceramic, buff color

Description

This Zapotec funerary urn from Oaxaca consists of a cylindrical ceramic vessel largely hidden from view by the effigy figure attached to its front. The figure is probably a fertility god, perhaps the "God of Glyph L," and is nearly identical to a maize god funerary urn from Monte Alban (Miller, Mary Ellen (2006): *The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec*, Thames and Hudson: London, p. 97). The

standardized faces on many of these urns may represent portraiture of an actual person. This urn is one of an identical pair with 2000.131. The figure wears an elaborate headdress, earrings, necklace, bracelets, shoulder cape, apron or loincloth, and a large chest medallion or pendant. The figure's nose is broken off, but was probably originally very large and stylized like that found on 2000.131, and the cheeks have raised bracket-shaped glyphs (?). Traces of fugitive red paint remain on the headdress. Funerary urns such as this one evolved stylistically from the hollow effigy vases which reached their peak popularity in the Late Formative at Monte Alban. These urns show no signs of burning or use with fire, so were likely used to hold funerary offerings of foods and beverages such as maize beer or pulque, an alcoholic drink made by fermenting maguey (agave). Funerary urns were used to flank tomb doorways but were also buried inside the tombs themselves.

Dimensions

Height: 15 inches (38.1 cm)