

UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum

Display Case 1



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2005.04.06



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2009.01.003



Bowl

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2009.01.005



Effigy Vessel

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 - AD 300
#AART 0954



Plate

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250 - 500
#2008.01.07



Plate

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2008.01.03



Plate

Maya Culture, Classic Period
AD 250 - 900
#2009.02.003



Plate

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250 - 500
#1990.02.05



Effigy Vessel

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300-AD 300
#AART 1661



Effigy Vessel

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300-AD 300
#2008.03.64



Bowl

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250-500
#2005.04.07



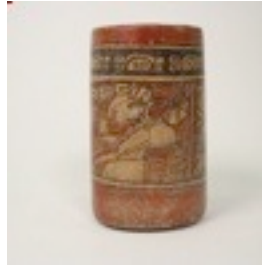
Figurine

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2005.04.53



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250 - 500
#2009.01.006



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2009.01.011



Effigy Vessel

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300-AD 300
#AART 0899

Display Case 2



Trophy Head Taster

Nazca Culture
BC 100 - AD 700
#2013.01.03



Trophy Head Taster

Nazca Culture
BC 100 - AD 700
#2013.01.01



Trophy Head Tasters

Nazca Culture
BC 100 - AD 700
#2013.01.02



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2001.02.01



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2013.01.15



Ceramic Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2005.04.16



Effigy Vessel

Toltec, Post Classic
AD 900 -1100
#2004.02.20



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2005.04.23



Vessel

Moche Culture
AD 100 - 800
#2013.01.07



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2005.04.15



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2005.04.18



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#1992.02.02



Sacrifice Figurine

Maya Culture, Pre-Classic Period
BC 800-400
#2006.01.25



Sacrifice Figure

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 - AD 300
#2013.01.17



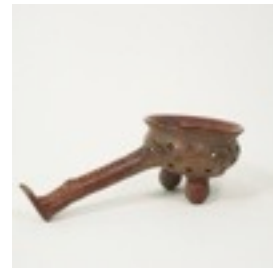
Plate

Maya Culture, Late Classic
Maya
AD 600 - 900
#AART 0992



Incensario

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#AART 1683



Handled Incensario

Mixtec Culture, Postclassic Period
AD 900- 1000
#AART 0982



Effigy Vessel

Lambayeque Culture
AD 750 - 1000
#2012.01.04



Incensario

Colima Culture, Formative
Period
BC 300 - AD 300
#AART 0898



Tripod Bowl

Maya Culture, Early Classic Maya
AD 250 - 500
#2005.02.15



Poison Bottle

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 – 900
#2005.01.06



Poison Bottle

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 – 900
#2005.01.03



Poison Bottle

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 – 900
#2005.01.01



Lidded Vessel

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 300-500
#AART 0107



Bench

Nayarit Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 - AD 300
#2004.02.01



Effigy Vessel

Chavin Culture
BC 900 - 200
#2013.01.13



Toad Effigy

Olmec Culture, Formative Period
BC 1400 - AD 400
#2004.02.27



Shaman Figurine

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 – AD 300
#AART 1718



Shaman Figurine

Colima Culture, Formative Period
1800 BC–AD 150
#AART 0957



Incensario

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 300-600
#2009.01.001

Display Case 3



Court Marker

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 – 900
#AART 1702



Raptor Hacha

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 – 900
#2005.02.02



Trophy Head

Moche Culture
AD 100 - 800
#AART 1739



Trophy Head

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250 - 500
#2005.04.21



Itsamna Figurine

Maya Culture, Early Classic Period
AD 250 - 900
#1992.02.07



Cup

Moche Culture
AD 100 - 800
#2013.01.08



Trophy Head

Colima Culture
BC 300–AD 300
#AART 1670



Cylinder Vessel

Maya Culture, Early Classic
AD 250 – 500
#2005.02.14



Cylinder Vase

Colima Culture, Formative Period
300 BC – AD 300
#2005.02.13



Cylindrical Vessel

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600-900
#2009.01.008



Ballplayer

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 - AD 300
#2005.04.29



Ballplayer

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 – AD 300
#2005.04.73



Ballplayer

Olmec Culture, Veracruz Region
BC 1400 - AD 400
#2005.02.12



Ballplayer

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 – AD 300
#2005.04.02



Ballplayer

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 – AD 300
#2005.04.01



Ballplayer

Maya Culture, Late Classic Period
AD 600 - 900
#2005.04.50



Ballplayer

Colima Culture, Formative Period
BC 300 – AD 300
#2005.02.05

Pedestal 1



Music

Music was an essential part of all ceremonies and everyday life. Evidence of the important role of music is found in ceremonial scenes depicted on painted ceramics and in murals on temple walls, and musical artifacts such as drums, flutes and whistles. Spanish chronicles also indicate that music was a necessity. Giant murals, similar to those from ancient Egypt, have been found throughout Mesoamerica that depict elites dancing while musicians play drums, rattles, trumpets, flutes and whistles. Musicians are often depicted on painted ceramic vessels and many ceramic and bone instruments have survived, although the Pre-Columbian era songs and musical arrangements have not. It is clear that music, singing, and dancing were a vital part of ritual activity.

Playing music, singing and dancing was performed by children and adults, commoners and the elite. Not only did music provide enjoyment but was a way of communicating. Elite musicians were highly trained. Evidence suggests that among Mesoamericans orchestral compositions were highly advanced and included a system of harmony long before the Western world had anything similar.

Pedestal 2**Jewelry**

Priests and nobles wore clothing made with finer cotton decorated with shell and bead embellishments. Exotic feathered headdresses were worn during ceremonies and other rituals. Many different forms of jewelry were worn, jade was a favorite material, objects included beads, earrings and ear spools. Cosmetic dental work was a prominent custom among Mesoamerica's elite. For Maya rulers, the two upper front teeth were filed away at the corner edges to form a T-shape, to signify the hieroglyph *ik* ("wind") a sign for "royalty". Front teeth were also decorated with in-lays of jade or hematite. In some cases, front teeth were filed into points like fangs.

Pedestal 3



Bloodletting and Sacrifice

The people of ancient Mesoamerica and Andean area, like other cultures around the world, performed rituals to communicate with their dead, ancestors and gods. Human sacrifice, by beheading and heart removal, and bloodletting were necessary elements of these rituals because human blood was the vehicle or the "conduit" for invoking the spirit world. Blood offerings satisfied the gods, whose constant demand for repayment of the "blood debt"

that man incurred at creation time; and blood was necessary to ensure the survival of humans and the gods. Scenes on murals, painted ceramic vessels and carved reliefs depict the elite members of society puncturing themselves with cut seashells, flint knives, obsidian blades, stingray spines, thorns, and sharp bone lancets, slicing through the tongue, ears or genitals. Boys of the elite class typically performed their first self-bloodletting act at age five.

Bloodletting nourished and honored gods, and a that act conjured forth the Vision Serpent who carried ancestral spirits and gods up from Xibalba (the underworld) into our space. Blood was typically soaked up on strips or cloth like paper was then burned in a special sacred bowl. The undulating Vision Serpent would rise up from the swirling smoke, and from its open mouth would emerge an ancestor or a god. Through bloodletting and human sacrifice, rulers proclaimed their divinity and right to rulership, a claim that formed the basis of elite legitimization and justification.

Animals were also sacrificed; jaguars, pelicans, eagles, quail, monkeys, turkeys, dogs, squirrels, and iguanas were the offerings in certain ceremonies. Selected for human sacrifice were captured enemy elite warriors, prisoners, slaves, children, suicides and defeated ballplayers. Priests assisted by four older men performed the sacrifice, holding down the victim's arms and legs while the chest was sliced open or the head chopped off. A shaman would preside and receive messages from the spirit world while in a hallucinogenic trance. In some cultures, the heart and liver were then consumed by royals, elite ballplayers and warrior knights.