



## Female figurine

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**Not on display**

**Title/Description:** Female figurine

**Object Type:** Figure

**Materials:** Stone

**Technique:** Carving, Incising

**Measurements:** h. 51 x w. 17 x d. 10 mm

**Accession Number:** 575c

**Historic Period:** Neolithic (c. 4500-3500 BC)

**Production Place:** Europe, Greece, Thessaly

**Cultural Group:** Neolithic

**Credit Line:** Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1978

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This small stone figurine has been made into a pendant or amulet by drilling a hole in the face. However the face is damaged: was it damaged when drilling the hole? Or was it decided to turn the figurine into a pendant after the face was first damaged? Either is possible.

The most prominent features of the figurine, apart from the head, are the pubic triangle at the front, and the buttocks at the rear, placing a focus on the middle part of the body. The face is at present featureless, although initially some facial features may have been represented. The arms are perhaps just barely represented by the carving of the torso, but only on close inspection.

The figurine is black on the rear and white at the front, which may have been caused by burning, or perhaps by the circumstances of deposition.

The artefact was probably made in Greece in the Neolithic period, but without secure contextual associations we cannot be sure (it is said to have formed part of a group found in a grave in Thessaly, but this is not secure).

Michael Boyd, April 2022

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## **Further Reading**

Tomkins, P., 'Neolithic antecedents', in *The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean*, ed. E. Cline (Oxford University Press, 2012), 31-50.

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