



Seated figure

On display

Title/Description: Seated figure

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Serpentine

Measurements: h. 72 x w. 48 x d. 20 mm

Accession Number: 711

Historic Period: Proto-Classic period (100 BC-AD 300)

Production Place: Colima, Mesoamerica, Mexico, The Americas

Cultural Group: Colima

Credit Line: Purchased with support from the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Trust, 1979

Outside of the state of Guerrero, small fine stone carvings are comparatively rare in West Mexico. A few highly polished figures such as this pendant have reportedly been found with other items in Colima tombs (Alsberg, 1969:112-8, figs. 55-9; Kan et al., 1989: no. 203; Leyenaar et al., 1992: no. 142). This very stylised figure, most likely male, is shown in a crouching position with hands on knees. The eyes are deeply carved, but otherwise there is little detail on the face. A smooth, relatively wide groove down the back indicates the spine, and the hands and feet are rendered by incision. A thin groove across the top of the head from ear to ear seems to follow a natural light-coloured vein in the stone. Two drilled holes at the back of the shoulders allow for suspension.

Entry taken from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection 3 volume catalogue, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997).

Provenance

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from David H. Bramhall, New York on the advice of Robert Sainsbury in 1979 out of funds provided by the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Trust.
