



Kneeling figure

On display

Title/Description: Kneeling figure

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Earthenware, Paint

Measurements: h. 225 x w. 107 x d. 110 mm

Accession Number: 775

Historic Period: AD 800-1500

Production Place: Ecuador, South America, The Americas

Cultural Group: Manteño

Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1980

The figure is entirely hand-made (rather than moulded) from light brown sandy clay. The surfaces are smoothed but not burnished (this may be due to over-cleaning) and there are traces of chestnut brown paint on the face. The breasts suggest a female, though genitals are not indicated. The holes in the ears may once have held small ornaments, and there is also a hole in the lower lip, where a lip plug would normally be placed. Although modelled three-dimensionally, this effigy was designed to be viewed from the front or side, since neither the necklace nor the hair line continues round the back. Stylistically this piece is not easy to classify. Olaf Holm (personal communication) suggests that it belongs to the earlier part of the Manteno period (Meggers, 1966:122-31) and comes from the northern region of Manteno territory, where there is some cultural mixing with other coastal styles.

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 John Stokes, New York, on the advice of Robert Sainsbury in 1980 out of income from the Sainsbury Purchasing Fund.
