



# Vessel with a reclining figure

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## Not on display

**Title/Description:** Vessel with a reclining figure

**Measurements:** h. 209 x w. 132 x d.145 mm

**Accession Number:** 780

**Historic Period:** AD 800-1500

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

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This figure, with a small opening in the top of his head, is apparently eating from a small bowl in his left hand. His nose is pierced, and there are multiple holes around the edges of the ears. These may once have held rings of metal wire. In contrast to the rest of the pot, the face of the figure is left matt and unburnished. The skull has been artificially deformed, as described by the sixteenth century chronicler Cieza de Leon (1864: 185) for the region around Manta: 'When a child was born they put its head between two boards, so that at the age of four or five, the head was long and broad, but flat behind, not content with the heads that God gives them, they thus make them into shapes that please them most'.

Warwick Bray, 1997

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## 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.

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