



Dream Amphora

Jean Arp

Not on display

Title/Description: Dream Amphora

Artist/Maker: Jean Arp

Born: 1941

Object Type: Sculpture

Materials: Bronze

Measurements: h. 255 x w. 223 x d. 74 mm With base: (h. 274 x w. 259 x d. 194 mm)

Accession Number: 46

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: France

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

Arp was born of French and German parentage in the contested province of Alsace; later, the sculptor, painter and poet called himself Jean when speaking in French and Hans when speaking in German. It was the perfect disjointed start for a founder of Dada and Surrealism who became a pioneer of abstraction.

Dream Amphora was created shortly before Nazi invasion forced Arp's flight from France to Switzerland. With surrealist wit he has fashioned an object clearly alluding to ancient vessels such as the amphora of the title, but in this 'dream' version the piece has billowed and blunted into a peculiar thing with no practical function.

In its detached beauty, the abstract sculpture has come to resemble the outline of a preening swan.

—

Ian Collins, journalist and writer

Provenance

Acquired by the Sainsbury Family in 1957. Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
