



Figure of a standing man

On display

Title/Description: Figure of a standing man

Born: 1000 - 0100

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Earthenware, Pigment

Measurements: h. 407 x w. 220 x d. 100 mm

Accession Number: 771

Historic Period: 11th-2nd century BC

Production Place: Ecuador, South America, The Americas

Cultural Group: Chorrera

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

This piece is a fine and typical example of the large, hollow 'Mate' figures which are a feature of Chorrera art. It is hand modelled, of buff-coloured clay, and has three vents which allowed steam to escape during the firing process: a large one between the legs, and two smaller ones at the ears. The 'helmet' is red, and the face and body are covered with a polished white slip, except for the loincloth, which is left plain. The necklace is tied in a knot at the back. The quality and finish of Mate figures are uniformly high. The shape of the human figure is simplified and stylised, but Chorrera artists took great trouble to depict clothing and body paint, or tattooing. For similar pieces see Meggers (1966: fig. 15), Lathrap *et al.* (1975: nos. 416-22), and Lapiner (1976: pls. 719, 721-3, 727).

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.

