

SA1208393

Pre-Columbian ceramic frog whistle, Chimú tradition Peru c. 1100-1470

Price

GBP 300

| USD \$406 | EUR 351

Item Reference: SA1208393

Date of manufacture: 15th century

Dimensions

Height = 8.3 cm (3.3")

Width = 14 cm (5.5")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A ceramic frog whistle, probably Peru, in the Chimú tradition. A zoomorphic wind instrument combining sculptural form with acoustic function. Comparable examples are represented in major museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the British Museum. Although many pottery instruments from pre-Conquest South America survive, their exact use remains uncertain. They are generally understood to have served both ceremonial and informal purposes, with fingerholes allowing variation of pitch and sounds that may reflect the represented animal. The figure is hollow and pierced with multiple openings. The dark surface corresponds to reduction-fired blackware typical of the Andean region and Chimú ceramic practice. The frog is associated in Andean culture with water, rainfall, and fertility. Objects of this kind form part of the cultural heritage of pre-Columbian South America and occupy a distinct position where sculpture and function intersect. Surviving ceramic whistles are less common than static figures. This piece stands apart as a functional object in which sound, form, and meaning are inseparable, offering a direct connection to the sensory world of ...

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