

Minoan conical cups - form, function, and significance

Paul Åströms - African art



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The seated female figures, their hands on their abdomen, are linked to the fertility cult, incarnating the first ancestor who died in childbirth, and are the object of offerings of food and sacrifices by women who are expecting a child.

BNC British National Corpus Frequency Word List

Little is known of the original function of the pieces, but theories include ancestor portrayal, , and to prevent crop failure, infertility, and illness. They serve to transmit an understanding to the initiated, who will decipher the statue according to the level of their knowledge. A Contextual Reading of Ethiopian Crosses Through Form and Ritual Kaleidoscopes of Meaning

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These ceremonial masks are each thought to have a soul, or life force, and wearing these masks is thought to transform the wearer into the entity the mask represents. The first type, used by the N'tomo society, has a typical comb-like structure above the face, is worn during dances and may be covered with cowrie shells. The rock-hewn Church of Bet Maryam in Lalibela.

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