DIS- MOCHE VESSEL-3rd–5th century

Terracotta, traveler vessel in the form of a Mochica Figure, from Moche IV, 3rd–5th century

The vessel is painted in a lovely red ground with cream colour details.   
In perfect condition said for some mineral deposits and root marks on the base surface.

Height: 18 cm / w 9 cm

**Moche portrait vessels** are ceramic vessels featuring highly individualized and naturalistic representations of human faces that are unique to the [Moche culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moche_culture) of [Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru).These portrait vessels are some of the few realistic portrayals of humans found in the [Precolumbian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precolumbian) Americas

The [Moche culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moche_culture) thrived from 100—800 CE on the north coast of Peru. Their lands sat between the [Pacific Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean) and the [Andean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andean) [cordillera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cordillera). They were a stratified, agrarian society that also heavily relied on fishing

Characteristics of the portrait vessels While most Moche portrait vessels feature heads, some portray full human figures. They are meant to hold liquids. Almost all of the portraits of are adult men. In some rare instances, young boys are represented, but no portrait vessels of adult women have yet been found. The portraits are not idealized, some feature abnormalities, such as [harelips](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harelip) and missing eyes. The vessels range from 6–45 cm in height, with most being between 15–30 cm

Typically, Moche pottery features red slip painted on a pale cream background; however, white-on-red and black paint is also found.While most portraits are three-dimensional portrayals of human, some have addition fineline paintings on their surface.

     