

Basic Detail Report



Vase with fish and nagual

Date

c. 2010

Primary Maker

A.M. (José Antonio Mateos) Suárez

Medium

burnished ceramic

Description

This A.M. Suárez vessel is an example of barro bruñido, or burnished pottery, typical of Tonalá pottery. This piece features fish and nagual motifs. The nagual is a hybrid

creature and shapeshifter, often an animal with human features. The nagual appears often in Mexican ceramics, described in this way by Lenore Hoag Mulryan: “For potters in Tonalá, the nagual is much like the trickster figure of the American Southwest. When it inhabits humans, it can rob them of their complacency, disrupt their lives, and lead them astray. Some potters say naguales are responsible for beneficent rain or destructive hail, marital devotion or infidelity. Others blame their excessive drinking on the nagual” (Mulryan 25-27).

Dimensions

8 × 6 in. (20.32 × 15.24 cm)