

## BLACK GLAZED PELIKE

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Attica, 5th century B.C.  
Terracotta  
H: 39.4 cm; D: 24.1 cm  
Reference: 30612



This noble vase is an excellent example of pottery made in Attica. It is impressive both in size and proportions. Pelike as the vessel's shape designed to contain wine or other liquid belongs to the variety of amphora; it has the widest portion toward the base and a broad neck with overhanging rim which covers the top of the arched handles. The foot is modeled in three degrees; the handles and the body are ribbed suggesting that the shape derives from the repoussé metal vases.

The rim is painted in black figure with egg-and-dot; the neck received an additional decoration as a wreath of olive or laurel leaves added in thin clay and formerly gilded, which also points to the influence of the metalwork. The highly purified clay slip coating of black-glaze vases, which produced the vitreous black sheen upon firing in the kiln, can be considered equal to some of the best work of Greek ceramic art. Along with the embellishment of stamped designs (on other examples) and gilding, the lustrous, highly purified clay slip covering such vases created a valuable decorative effect.

### CONDITION

Good condition.

### PROVENANCE

Ex Thomas Barlow Walker, Minneapolis.

Sotheby's Park Bernet New York, September 26-28, 1972 (lot 286).

Sotheby's New York, June 20, 1990 (lot 14), sold for \$8,250.

US private collection.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ROBERTSON M., *The art of vase-painting in classical Athens*, Cambridge, 1992, p. 295.