

MYCENAEN CERAMIC KALATHOS

Mycenian, 12th century B.C.
Greek Ceramic
Diam.: 26.7cm
Reference: 16944



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The name (Kalathos) of this type of vessel indicates a recipient in the shape of a basket. This type of vessel became popular in the last phase of the Mycenaean era, during the 12th century B.C. . The lip of this kind of vase is sometimes enhanced by having a spout, miniature statuettes or vases, which would attest to these vessels being used in a ritual or funerary function.

This particular vase features a sinuous profile, a long spout located in between two semi-circular side handles. It is decorated with horizontal lines of varying width, painted in red and brown, and of series of loops semi-circles, traced hastily on the upper part of the outside rim. On the lip itself, a continuous series of small triangular motifs, rendered in a stylized way, reminds us of a shale motif already known to ornate mycenaean ceramics.

CONDITION

Intact, in excellent condition, with much of the polychrome remaining, some patches of earthy crust at the handle area.

PROVENANCE

Ex-H. Vollmoeller collection, Switzerland.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Exhibition catalogue: "The Mycenaean World, National Archaeological Museum", Athens, 1988, pp. 164-165, nos. 124 and p. 201, no. 177 for similar.