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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Casa Morandi

Via Fondazza, 36, 40125 Bologna (BO)

Form compiled by: Alessia Masi (Head of the Museo Morandi), in collaboration with Davide Domenici

Introduction

The collection of Casa Morandi includes nine pre-Columbian ceramics that were part of the personal collection of the artist Giorgio Morandi (1890–1964). The ceramics come from Southwest / Oasisamerica, Mesoamerica, and Central America and the Caribbean. There is no information on how the artist came into possession of these artefacts.

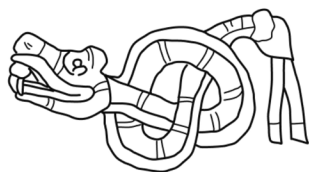
Cultural Areas (tags)

Southwest / Oasisamerica; Mesoamerica; Central America

Collection name	Giorgio Morandi Pre-Columbian Collection
Collector	Morandi, Giorgio (1890-1964)
Cultural areas	Southwest / Oasisamerica; Mesoamerica; Central America
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Ancestral Pueblo (USA) Hohokam (USA) Teotihuacan (Mexico)

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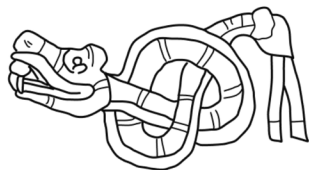
	West Mexico (Mexico) Chiriquí (Costa Rica)
Description of the collection	The collection consists of 9 ceramic artefacts: three Ancestral Pueblo pitchers, one Hohokam bowl, one Teotihuacan florero, two vessels from West Mexico, one Chiriquí tripod (Panama), and one unidentified bottle.
History of the collection	<p>The famous Bolognese painter Giorgio Morandi assembled a small collection of works of ancient art, including several Indigenous American archaeological artefacts from different regions. There is no precise information on how the artist came into possession of the Indigenous American artefacts, but the presence – quite unusual in Italian collections – of Ancestral Pueblo ceramics from the U.S. Southwest suggests that he may have obtained them starting in the 1950s, when his fame crossed the Atlantic and initiated contacts with U.S. art circles.</p> <p>The collection was donated to the Musei Civici di Bologna by Carlo Zucchini, executor of the bequest of Maria Teresa Morandi, the artist's younger sister. Since 2009 it has been on display at Casa Morandi.</p>
Online database	
Web page	

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