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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo di scultura antica Giovanni Barracco

CORSO VITTORIO EMANUELE II, 168 - 00186 ROMA RM

Form compiled by Davide Domenici

Introduction

The Museo di scultura antica Giovanni Barracco preserves the rich collection of comparative ancient sculpture assembled by Giovanni Barracco and donated by him to the municipality of Rome in 1902. The museum was inaugurated in 1905 in a building that Barracco had Gaetano Koch design for this purpose; this building was demolished in 1938. After being moved to the storerooms of the Musei Capitolini, in 1948 the collection was finally installed in its current location in the so-called “Farnesina ai Baullari”. The collection contains two sculptures of Mesoamerican origin.

Cultural Areas

Mesoamerica

Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Giovanni Barracco Collection
<i>Collector</i>	Barracco, Giovanni (1829–1914)

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Funding 2021-2027 | PNRR M4C2: PRIN 2022

Funded by European Union NextGenerationEU and Italian Ministry of University and Research

2022RHCY5P | CUP B53D23023080006



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<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Teotihuacan (Mexico) Huastec (Mexico)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	The collection contains two Mesoamerican sculptures. One is a Teotihuacan mask in dark serpentinite representing a frontal human face, with a band-shaped headdress running horizontally across the forehead. The other is a Huastec female sandstone figure representing a woman in frontal position, with her hands joined at the belt and her breasts bare. She wears the typical conical headdress with a pleated “fan” at the back. The legs are broken just below the lower edge of the skirt.
<i>History of the collection</i>	It is not known how Giovanni Barracco acquired the two sculptures, which were probably bought on the antiquarian market.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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