

COLNAGHI



A Boeotian Black-glazed Kantharos

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Greek
Boeotian, ca. 400-350 B.C.

Black-glazed Kantharos

Terracotta
h. 24.1 cm
9 1/2 in.

Provenance

Sotheby's New York, *Antiquities*, 7 December 2001, lot 106.



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The present vase is called a kantharos, a type of Greek drinking cup originating in the 8th century B.C. It sits on a wide, round foot, with a long stem with an annulet, a carinated body, and two high, curved handles. It is decorated on both sides with an off-center sunflower motif and two leafy stems on either side near the handles.

Kantharoi are associated with Dionysus and his followers, satyrs, maenads, and silenoi, on vase paintings and coinage throughout the Greek world. While they may have been used as drinking cups in daily life, they also had a ceremonial function as vessels for giving libations. Additionally, kantharoi could be given to temples as votive offerings.

For the shape, see .P N. Ure, *Black Glaze Pottery from Rhitsona in Boeotia*, Oxford, 1913, pl. XI.7.

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