

Container

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Three miniature soapstone vessels: two rectangular pots (ukkusinguaq), bucket (qattanguaq).

Accession Number 2022.18.113.1-3

Period 20th century

Materials stone, soapstone, wax

Measurements 6 x 14 x 8 cm

Historical context

Three miniature soapstone vessels: two rectangular pots (ukkusinguaq) and a bucket (qattanguaq). These miniature models are inspired by the ancient practice of making small reproductions as toys, which could also serve a spiritual function to accompany the dead, or even to prevent

breakage and protect utilitarian containers in domestic use.

The pot was used to melt the snow used to boil seal meat or fish. Holes in the top 4 corners allowed the pot to be hung over an oil lamp or open fire. These steatite pots were in use until the first third of the 20th century, when they were gradually replaced by lighter, less fragile metal vessels. As for the bucket used to transport and store water, it was generally made of sealskin sewn into a cylindrical shape mounted on a circular base, the whole made watertight by the use of an impermeable blind seam.

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