PAGODA
RED

BURA SPIRIT VESSEL

$3,580

c. 1900 • Niger • Terra Cotta • Collection #CAA0332A

H: 37.0″ Dia: 11.75″

Sometimes called a "Bura bell" due to its shape, this sculptural terra cotta object was part of the Bura tribe's burial ritual. Buried with its flared mouth facing down, this cylindrical storage vessel would have protected the deceased's possessions as they transitioned to the afterlife. Decorated with complex incisions and dimples, this solid, earthy vessel is phallic in its sculptural presence. This particular example draws the varied motifs together, a simple, ribbon-like carving emerges from the busy field of patterns to provide a visual focal point. Continued...

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Though we aren't sure of their original purpose, the holes at the top are thought to be intentional.