

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
ABSTRACT

Representations of Cosmology: A Study of the Saladoid and Barrancoid of
Trinidad and Tobago 500 B.C. – AD 750

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This paper offers an unconventional approach to the study of pre-colonial culture. It combines Cultural Studies and Archaeology with the aim of investigating the mechanisms by which Saladoid and Barrancoid adornos of Blanchisseuse, Trinidad and Golden Grove, Tobago, are representations of an Amazonian cosmology. To accomplish this, the research drew upon methods from Material Culture Studies, Art History, Ethno-history and Visual Culture Studies. The result is an interpretive engagement with the pre-colonial past that identifies the relationship between clay and primordial mythology, pottery designs, iconography and function as the ways in which the adornos represent Saladoid and Barrancoid cosmology. The research shows stylistic differences between the adornos from Blanchisseuse and Golden Grove and suggests a variation in cosmological practices at these sites as well as between the Saladoid and Barrancoid people.

Keywords: representation, cosmology, Saladoid, Barrancoid, adorno, archaeology