

Achiqotl Sculpture.

This small Andesite sculpture is quite unusual among the Aztec animal sculpture but it almost certainly represents the semi-mythical water creature Achiqotl a kind of water opossum. They ~~are~~ ^{were} said to live in the bottom of whirlpools and could pull people - especially children - to their death. This animal is usually depicted ~~with~~ ^{surrounded} by water glyphs - ^{especially} water running off its back.

The ruler of Tenochtitlan from 1502 to 1509 was named Achiqotl and this sculpture may refer to him as a three dimensional depiction of the ruler's name glyph. ^{over} The creature is shown in a kneeling "feminine" posture with feet tucked behind. Also a feminine posture ^{on} the arms raised and the claws drawn back in the attack position. The position is ^{probably} intentionally ambiguous for the claws appear to be holding a mask of an ^{old} frogged-eyed man who may represent an intense form of Tlaloc. The vertebrae appearance of the face likewise recalls Huehueotl the old face god. ~~The mouth~~ ^{mouth} at the corners of the mouth drag

Note mention
the "feet behind"
position of
disarms i.e.
undrawn
figure