



5,6

Unidentified artist, Nigerian,
Cham culture

**Ritual Healing Vessels
(Itinate)**

clay

Gift of Charles Jones African
Art,

2006.35.1 (left) and

2006.35.3 (right)

About the Art

- Each vessel's shape corresponds to a particular type of ailment. The one on the left is a type used for rectal problems as well as for chicken pox and other childhood diseases. The one on the right is designed to heal back problems.
- Based on advice from a diviner, a sick person requests a potter to make a specific type of vessel. The potter and diviner begin the process of symbolically transferring the illness to the pot. After the illness has been cured, the pot has served its purpose and the person discards it.
- In the language of the Cham culture, these vessels are called *itinate*. They are made only by men, whereas other types of pots may be made by women.

View 3D models of the Ritual Healing Vessels on the Ackland's Sketchfab page at <https://sketchfab.com/ackland>.