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FRITWARE BOWL, DECORATED WITH LUSTRE OVER AN OPAQUE, WHITE GLAZE. TELL MINIS TYPE

SYRIA; C. 1150

H: 7; DIAM: 20.5 CM

Like its Fatimid, Egyptian models, Syrian Tell Minis pottery was experimental. It comprised tin-glazed earthenware, fritware with an opaque, white glaze, and fritware under a clear glaze that let the ware's pale-pink color shine through.

The frontally positioned Mediterranean figure and splendid palmettes also point the way to Fatimid lustreware. The clothing and headgear do not tell us clearly whether this is a young man or a woman, and neither can we readily identify the objects – a beaker and a fruit? – in his or her hands.

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