

This paper aims to contextualize the *mastos*, a relatively rare shape of drinking cup in the repertoire of Attic vase production that takes its name and form from the female breast. While evidence for this form has been gathered and catalogued, very little analysis of the shape has been carried out to date. (Lawall et al. 2002, Greifenhagen 1977) This conical cup, complete with an articulated nipple, converts a female body part into a functional object of the symposium. As a result, *mastoi* become the subjects of visual puns that draw on the conceptualization of the form and function of the female body. Demonstrating parallels between the human body and the body of the vase was a playful theme that craftsmen sometimes explored in their craft. In my paper, I review how potters and painters played with this anthropomorphizing trend to exploit the polyvalence of the terms applied to these vases and to explore the rich potential for metaphors. I begin by providing a concise account of breasts as they are discussed in Archaic and Classical Greek literature. Citing passages that describe breasts, I will demonstrate that they bore a range of associations, from a mother's capacity to nurse her child to the sexual appeal of virginal breasts. In addition, I will highlight instances in which breasts are described as sexual objects and evaluate how these descriptions accentuate the haptic aspect of the drinker's encounter with the breast-shaped cup in order to demonstrate that the tactile attention given to human breasts in literature is replicated in their three-dimensional clay imitations. Then, exploring sources that range from the poetry of Archilochus to Euripides' *Cyclops*, I highlight the applicability of verbs associated with breastfeeding to other forms of drinking. I demonstrate that, more than simply denoting the act of consuming a liquid, the terms also connote a specific type of deep, greedy drinking. In light of the symposium's ostensible admiration for moderation, particularly with regard to wine, I argue that the attribution of a greedy act of drinking to nursing leaves the *mastos*-user susceptible to jokes and criticisms that hinged on the terminology of breastfeeding. By demonstrating their simultaneous reference to eroticism and essential nourishment, I assert that this uniquely female body part becomes a locus for contemplation of restraint and excess in the symposium setting.