

Native American Pottery

Assignment #9
Intro to Art



A PUEBLO WATER CARRIER

Background:

- There were many different tribes/groups of Natives that made pottery.
- It started with using it to cook food, hold water, preserve things and to bury with their dead.
- Most of what we know today about these tribes are from their clay.

- Different tribes had their own designs and images they painted on their artwork. Some look similar to each other due to distance between the villages.
- We believe that pottery first was invented by putting it in baskets and burning the basket which would then “bake” the clay=pottery.



Nambe



Hopi



Acoma



Laguna



Zia



San Juan



Santa Clara



Zuni



Cochiti



Navajo



San Ildefonso

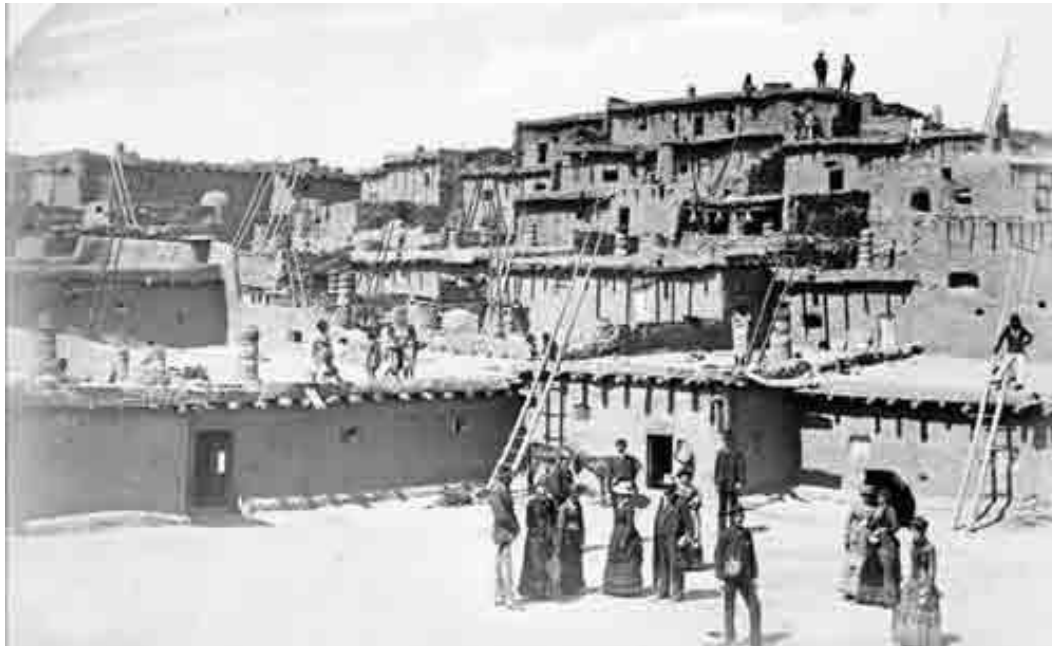
- Early in the 20th century, San Ildefonso pottery first became famous as the source of black-on-black pottery, a type that was developed around 1919 by Maria Martinez and her husband, Julian.



History of Native Pottery:

- By the 1920's, the most skilled Pueblo women potters were persuaded to sign their works. Indian pottery emerged as a new collectible and received endorsements from art and history museums.
- Historic pottery is difficult to find=Most pottery had been used in funeral ceremonies and buried.
- The collision of the Spaniards and the American Pueblo Indians resulted not only in significant restriction in the usage of pottery but also in the disappearance of most of the pottery in the two hundred years of the Historic period.

- **Due to the orthodoxy of Church authorities, Pueblo Indians were refused the right to bury pottery with their dead in accordance with ancient custom. Instead they were forced to have Christian burials in cemeteries.**
- Consequently, there are almost no Historic vessels preserved in the relative security of old graves.
- The significance of the Spanish ban on burial of pottery with Indian dead cannot be over emphasized.
- It is likely that all Prehistoric pottery had some religious aspects, as its burial signifies. But when burial pottery was prohibited, the Pueblo Indians were forced to concentrate on making pottery exclusively for utilitarian purposes such as storage of grain and water, cooking, etc., while only a small number of vessels were created - in secrecy- for strictly ceremonial use.



Assignment #9

- You will be designing you own Native American inspired coil pot.
- You will choose what story you will put on the piece and colors.



Requirements:

- You will want to have a native design.
- Tells a story or has a pattern
- Use the correct colors=red, red-orange, brown, white, black.
- The pottery container design is made for something specific.-water, food, burial, cooking, etc.
- Good Craftsmanship.
- 4"-6" tall

Ceramics Vocabulary:

- Hand building: One of several techniques of building pots using only your hands and simple tools rather than a potter's wheel.
- Coil- Technique of building a ceramic form by rolling out coils or ropes of clay and joining them together with your fingers or a tool.

- Slip- Slip is liquid clay. It's the clay's glue.
- Score and slip- Refers to a method of joining two pieces of clay together. Score=making scratches in the surfaces that will be stuck together. Then add slip to “glue” the two together.
- Kiln- A high powered “oven” to heat up the clay.
- Bisque- Refers to ceramic ware that has been fired once without glaze.

Stages of Dryness

- Wet- moist clay
- Leather hard- almost completely dry clay
- Bone Dry- clay that has no moisture in the clay=Greenware.

Step 1

- wedge the clay so there are no air bubbles.



Step 2

- Get a golf ball size piece of clay and flatten it to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick round circle.



Step 3

- Roll out an even coil that is about 1/2" thick.
- Score and slip the coil and circle.
- Put the two scored pieces together



Step 4

- Smooth out the coils with your fingers.



Step 5

- Once the clay pot is almost leather hard score and slip a coil on the bottom of the pot.



Step 6

- Smooth out the coil to make the foot of your pot.



Step 7

- Paint the background onto your piece
- Draw out your design
- Paint your design



Nambe

- Until about 1830 Nambe (People of the Round Earth) Pueblo was a tremendous center for the manufacture of painted pottery.
- Later Nambe vessels consist principally of black wares, with fluted-rimmed bowls like those of Santa Clara, jars resembling those from Picuris, and plain tan vessels of relatively rough finish.



Hopi

- Since the end of the 19th century, the predominant type of Hopi pottery includes shallow bowls, cylindrical jars, and flat, low-slung jars with a short neck.
- These unique forms are painted with bird, plants, animals, rain, lightning, snow and wind motifs on an unslipped surface that ranges from yellow to a deep, warm orange.



Acoma

- Acoma pottery is noted for its thin walls, fine lines, vibrant figures and light weight.
- Acoma vessels are decorated in black with complex geometric and curvilinear polychrome designs carefully painted on a white slip background.
- The most frequently seen painted figures are birds, vines, lizards or deer.



Laguna

- Laguna pottery is similar to Acoma pottery.
- This is not surprising since the two villages are located only a few miles apart.
- One potentially distinguishing characteristic of Laguna pottery is the use of comparatively large painted designs that interlock and completely encircle the vessel.



Zia

- They have a matte-paint style and their most popular motif was the feather, a sacred symbol.
- Until 1765-ish, all these items had a distinctive feature: the rim top was always painted red. After that date, the rib has always been painted black.
- the Zia symbol for the sun is the symbol on the New Mexico state flag
- Zia pottery makers retain the designs and trends of their ancestors more than virtually any other Native American pottery makers.



San Juan

- Traditionally the pottery of San Juan has been plain polished red or polished black.
- Also traditional is the style of applying the polished slip, in either case to only the upper two-thirds of jars, and to only a band just below the rim on the exteriors of bowls.
- The rest of the surface is well-polished bare paste: a shade of orange-tan when the slip is red, and gray when the slip has been smudged black.



Santa Clara

- Traditional Santa Clara pottery consists of highly polished, unpainted black or red vessels with relatively thick walls.
- Frequently the only form of decoration on these vessels is an impressed design in the shape of a bear paw, almost a Santa Clara trademark, a reference to the belief that once, during a drought, a bear led the Santa Clara people to water.
- This motif first appeared on vessels made in the later half of the 19th century. The bear paw is usually placed on jars in sets of three or more with no other decoration.
- Departures from tradition are seen especially in the sculptural details that embellish a vessel.



Zuni

- The Zuni Pueblo is the largest of the New Mexico pueblos.
- Traditional Zuni pottery, much like Acoma pottery, has fine lines, complicated geometric patterns, the use of animal figures and thin walls.
- The Zuni produced a rare style of pottery, Zuni White-on-Red, a style that survived from thousands of years ago in which the entire surface was slipped in a reddish color and decorated with motifs in white paint.
- Recognizable motifs frequently depicted include deer and squat birds with long flowing tails.



Cochiti

- Cochiti pottery is produced in a variety of forms, including items made in the shape of birds and human figures.
- Free-standing human figures are unique to Cochiti.
- Cochiti motifs are isolated decorations, often with little relation to one another.
- The lines are finer, giving the motifs a lighter appearance.
- A typical Cochiti feature is the habit of embellishing the encircling framing lines with pendant figures, usually simple arcs or triangles, but sometimes enigmatic, complicated adaptations of older feather motifs.



Navajo

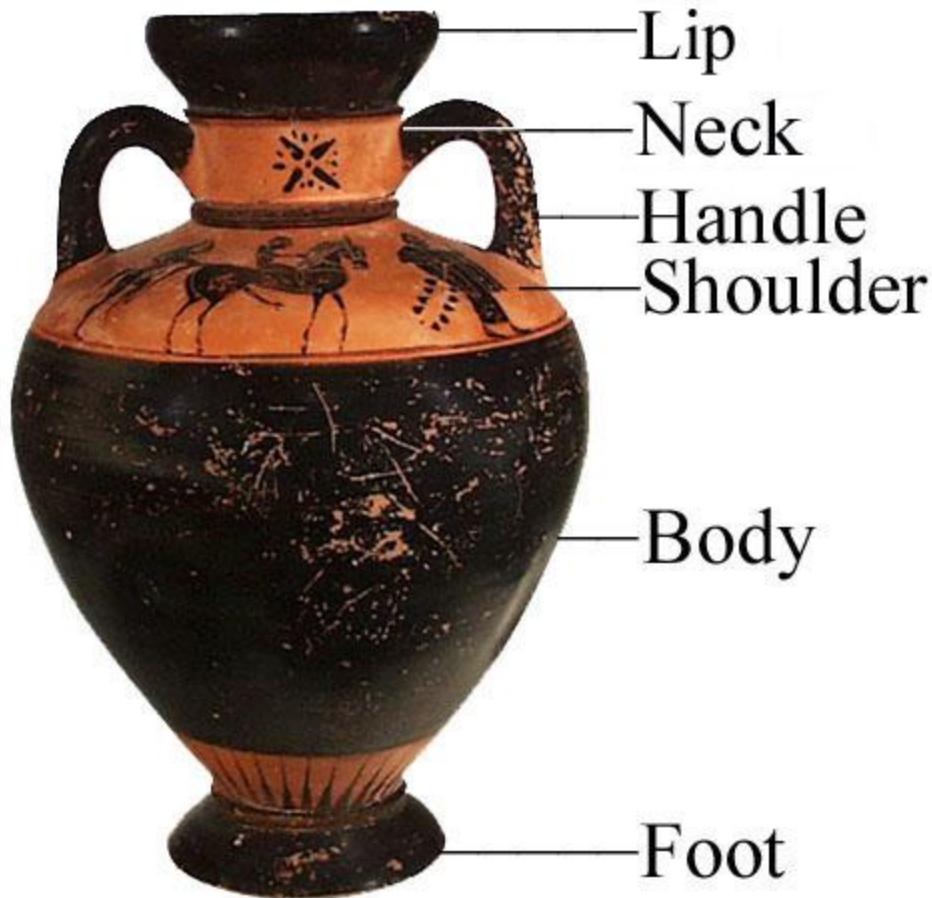
- The Navajo have been making practical pottery for years. When metal utensils became available through trading posts, pottery production declined. One of their most popular pieces is the Navajo Wedding Vase.
- the godmother of the groom must make the Wedding Vase. She takes stones which are "holy" and dips them into water which is put into the vase for the reception.



Finished artworks



Parts:



- Lip/mouth- The opening at the top of the vase.
- Neck-(usually) the narrower part that leads from the body of the vase to the mouth.
- Body- Main part of the vase. It's usually the largest part.
- Foot- Part of the vase that meets the floor.