Main characteristics/features

Ban Chiang pottery refers to pottery produced in Tambon Ban Chiang, Amphoe Nong Han of Udon Thani, Thailand. The pottery may be oval, circular, spherical with or without a base, vase-shaped, doll-shaped or lantern-shaped. Ban Chiang pottery is categorised by the distinctive markings of each period in its history; namely, by the curvilinear, vine and spiral, geometric, floral, animal, winding rope and rope-marked motifs. Surfaces may be glazed or unglazed.

Geographical area

The boundaries of Ban Chiang pottery are within Ban Chiang Subdistrict of Nong Han District in Udon Thani Province, Thailand.

Production and processing

Ban Chiang pottery is made by cutting a small piece of clay, mixing it with sand and soaking it in water until saturated. It is then shaped, fired in a special oven, and cooled for 24 hours. Coloured powders are used to design each piece. Once complete, the pottery is varnished and sometimes sanded to give an antique look.

Link between product and territory

In 1967, Thai Government's Fine Arts department uncovered some artefacts in Ban Chiang. Serious efforts to dig further began in 1972, when further discoveries started to shape Ban Chiang’s cultural tradition. Pottery earned Ban Chiang a reputation both at home and abroad. The uniqueness of its geographical area and of its people makes the pottery manufactured in this region distinctive from any produced elsewhere. The tradition continues today, with the appearance, shapes, and designs made to look like the original antiques found in the area.