Main characteristics/features

Koh kret pottery comprises household items such as clay pots, sinks, mortars and pots. They can also be decorative objects. The pots are strong, durable and resistant. They can be used to carry water. Koh kret pottery is generally orange, and the colour darkens with heat.

Production and processing

Rough clay is kneaded into rods of different sizes, to make it easier to shape. It is then placed on a pottery wheel and hand-formed, spread and pushed out to obtain the desired diameter. The pottery is decorated later, and needs to be neither too soft nor too hard. To begin, the surface must be smoothed with a polishing stone. Then, a banana leaf is used to cover the pottery. The pottery is decorated using wood, knives, wooden moulds, and even wild coral. Koh kret pottery is traditionally fired in a ‘Jong Pao’ oven, which burns between 800 and 1400 degrees Celsius, for 3-15 days. Alternatively, the pottery can be fired in a gas or electric oven for 24 hours. Once fired, the pottery must rest for 5-7 days (depending on the size and type of oven) inside the oven before opening it. Then, it must be opened very slowly to prevent cold air from getting in that could damage the pottery. This process is called ‘Ok Tao’ or ‘Taoj Pao’.

Labels should include the words ‘Kruang Pan Dinpao Koh kret’ and/or ‘Koh kret Pottery’.

Geographical area

The Koh kret pottery production area is located in the Pakret District of Thailand’s Nonthaburi Province, which is further divided into 12 subdistricts.

Link between product and territory

Koh kret has been known for its exquisite pottery for a long time, and has a reputation for its beauty, usefulness, and high quality. The island is made up of clay loam soil, and is therefore suitable for producing pottery. Basic products include earthenware jars, sinks, and mortars. More elaborate and artistic works, such as jars with exquisite designs or uniquely shaped or carved pots, are not always intended to be sold, but are made to be given to temples or grandchildren. Koh kret pottery is unique in its manufacturing process, its method of moulding, and in its beautifully carved designs.

Koh kret pottery has been honoured as a symbol of the Nonthaburi Province, and it has even been included in the provincial slogan.