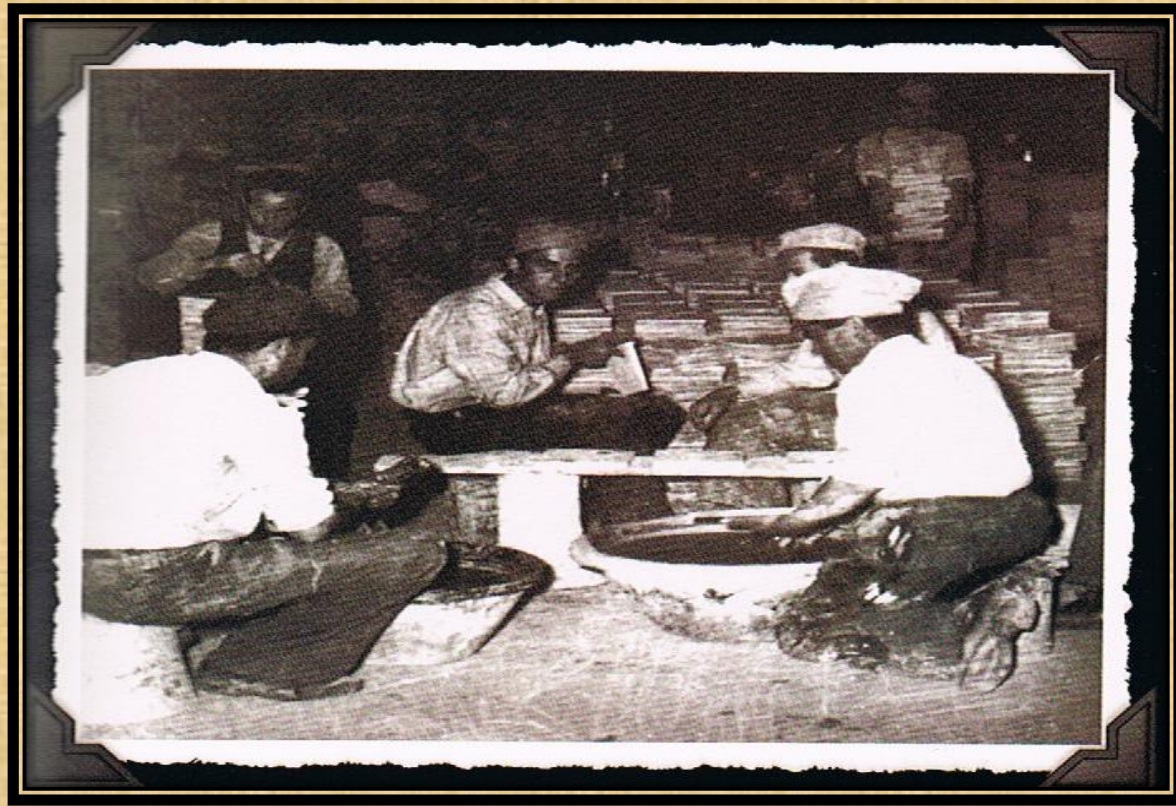


Pottery: origins, use and development



Menu

What is ceramic?

- What is it?
- When, where and how was it born?

Santo Stefano di Camastra

- Importance of the town
- Museum of Ceramics

What is Ceramic?



At the natural state it is very ductile, after the cooking phase it becomes stiff.



Origins of pottery

It's difficult to believe in the idea that using clay to create objects came about casually. These artifacts were left out in the sun to dry and as a consequence they were very fragile.

Pottery became an important item in everyday life, because they needed something fire-resistant to cook the legumes in. The real development of ceramics happened with the rise of urban society.

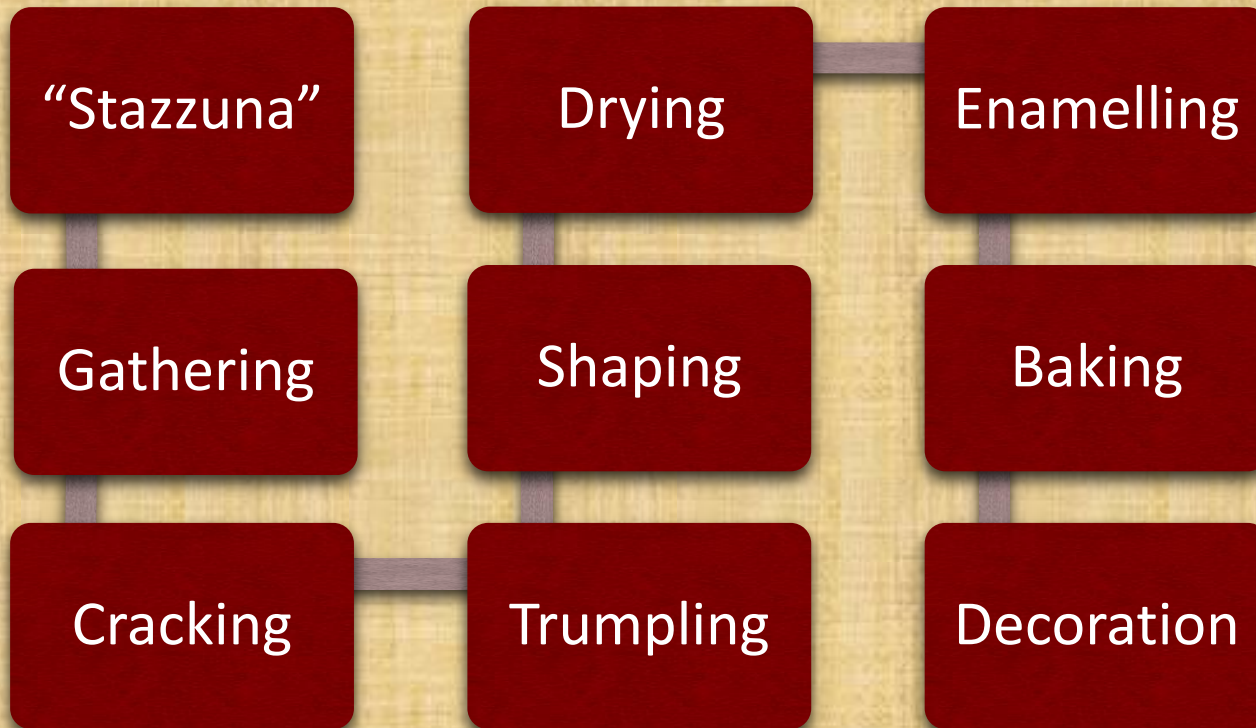
The art of modeling clay in order to produce objects in pottery has very ancient roots.

Terracotta objects were way more resistant than clay ones. The first ceramic pots, crafted by Neolithic man, were already extremely well made.

The production of pottery changed with the passing of time. They started using the Potter's wheel. Also the kilns evolved.



Pottery Crafting





Santo Stefano di Camastra

S. STEFANO DI CAMASTRA IS A CITY OF ART AND CULTURE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE LAND OF THE CERAMICS”. THIS CITY IS BETTER KNOWN WITH THIS NAME WORLDWIDE, AND IT IS LOCATED AT THE BOUNDS OF PALERMO AND MESSINA. A PECULIAR TOWN, AN UNIQUE ONE: WHEREVER YOU MAY LOOK, YOU WILL SEE PLATS, TILES, MOSAICS, EVERYTHING MADE WITH THE USE OF COLORFUL CERAMICS. THE FINE CRAFTING, THE RARITY OF THE COLORS, THE PATIENCE OF THE ARTISTS, ALL OF THESE FACTORS CONTRIBUTE IN MAKING THE CERAMIC OF THIS CITY A VERY REQUESTED PRODUCT ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT IS POSSIBLE TO VISIT THE CERAMIC ART SCHOOL. THE DOME, BUILT IN 1685, HOSTS INTERESTING SCULPTURES AND PAINTINGS OF ‘600 AND ‘700. THE CHURCH OF MARIA SS. DELLA CATENA CONTAINS THE ELEGANT TOMB OF CAMASTRA’S DUKE AND A STATUE WHICH REPRESENTS THE MADONNA DELLA CATENA, WHICH BELONGS TO ‘500. PALAZZO SERGIO WAS AN ARISTOCRATIC RESIDENT, BUT HAS BEEN RECENTLY GIVEN BACK TO THE CITY AND NOW IT IS, OBVIOUSLY, THE MUSEUM OF CERAMICS. IN ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT ZONES OF THE CITY, YOU CAN FIND PALAZZO ARMAO DECORATED WITH NEOCLASSIC FRONTONS AND OTHER DECORATIONS IN CERAMICS. YOU CAN ALSO ADMIRE TWO PANELS IN WHICH THE FUNERALS OF ETTORE AND NAPOLEONE III ARE REPRESENTED.





S. STEFANO IS THE MAJOR CERAMICS PRODUCER OF SICILY. THE TRADITION IS VERY ANCIENT AND IT IS RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF MINESHAFT FILLED WITH GOOD CLAY IN THE LAND. ONCE UPON A TIME, THEY WERE USED TO CRAFT DAILY USED OBJECTS SUCH IN RAW CLAY SUCH AS: “BUMMULI” AND “QUARTARE” TO HOLD WATER AND “CANNATE” TO HOLD WINE, POTS OF VARIOUS SIZES AND SHAPES, LANTERNS ETC. FROM THE SECOND HALF OF ‘700, THANKS ALSO TO THE POTTER ARTISTS COMING FROM NAPOLI, PALERMO, CALTAGIRONE, WE HAVE A DEVELOPMENT OF A RICH PRODUCTION OF TILES DECORATED WITH VARIOUS DRAWINGS. THESE TILES CAN BE FOUND ON THE FLOORS, WALLS, TOMBS ETC. MANY COLORS HAVE BEEN USED, BUT IN PARTICULAR COBALT BLUE, RED, BROWN. AT THE SAME TIME, ENAMELS AND PAINTS HAVE BEEN USED TO DECORATE THE POTS, PLATS ETC.





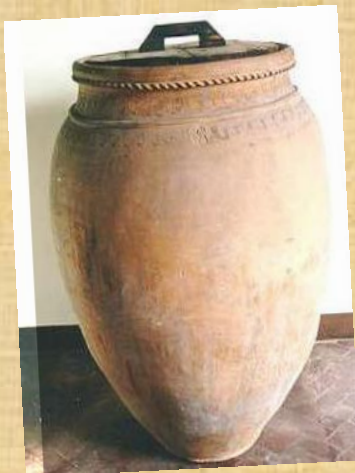
THE ARTISAN WORKSHOPS, VERY IMPORTANT IN THE TOWN, HAVE A RICH VARIETY OF SHAPES, FIGURES AND COLOURS, MAKING SANTO STEFANO A LANDMARK FOR THE ART OF CERAMICS, AND IT CAN BE EASILY COMPARED WITH OTHER CITIES WITH MORE POPULAR ART SCHOOLS. AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW ARTISTS IS THE ACTIVITY OF THE ISTITUTO D'ARTE PER LA CERAMICA; FOUNDED IN 1931 AS "SCHOOL OF CERAMICS". THE BUILDING WAS BUILT AT THE END OF 17TH CENTURY, COMMITTED BY DUKE GIUSEPPE LANZA BARRESI; INSIDE YOU CAN FIND ORNATED VAULTS AND FLOORING IN TILES.





Museum of Pottery

THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED IN PALAZZO TRABIA AND CONSERVES A SERIES OF OBJECTS OF THE ANCIENT CERAMIC TRADITION OF THE CITY. THINGS OF EVERYDAY USAGE LINKED TO THE NECESSITIES OF FAMILY AND WORK. THE MUSEUM HAS GOT A COLLECTION OF THE ANCIENT MAJOLICA TILES, WHICH ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PRODUCTION OF SANTO STEFANO FROM THE 17TH CENTURY TO NOWADAYS



The end