

## REPRESENTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UZBEKISTAN THROUGH CERAMICS

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**Abstract:** The article highlights the historical roots, artistic features and cultural significance of Uzbek ceramic art. Ceramics, which have been formed since the ancient Sogdian, Bactrian and Khorezm cultures, reflect the lifestyle, religious beliefs and aesthetic views of the people. Ceramic centers such as Rishton, Gijduvan, Khiva and Samarkand are distinguished by their unique styles. The patterns, colors and shapes on ceramic products express the spiritual world, creativity and national values of the people. This art has been passed down from generation to generation and has become an integral part of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan. The article allows students to understand the historical and artistic aspects of ceramic art, appreciate the national heritage and gain inspiration.

**Keywords:** Uzbek pottery, cultural heritage, Rishton pottery center, Gijduvan masters, Khiva and Samarkand pottery, pottery, patterns and colors, Silk Road trade, national values, aesthetic views

**Introduction:** Uzbekistan, as a country located at the crossroads of ancient civilizations, has a rich cultural heritage. An important part of this heritage is manifested through the art of pottery. Pottery was not only used in everyday life, but also reflected the aesthetic views, religious beliefs and social life of the people. The spiritual world, creativity and pursuit of beauty of the people are visible through the art of pottery. This article aims to analyze, educate and inspire students about the historical roots, artistic features and cultural significance of the Uzbek pottery.

Main part

Historical roots of pottery

The art of pottery has been formed in Uzbekistan since the times before Christ. Ceramic vessels found as a result of archaeological excavations indicate that pottery was widespread in the ancient Sogdian, Bactrian, and Khorezm cultures. For example, ceramic objects found at the sites of Afrosiyob (Samarkand) and Tuproqqala (Khorezm) prove that the art of pottery was at a high level at that time.

Ceramic objects also played an important role in trade relations. Through the shape and decoration of the objects, one can obtain information about the lifestyle, religious rituals, and aesthetic views of ancient peoples. These ceramic objects are an invaluable source in studying the material and spiritual life of the people.

Artistic characteristics of ceramic objects.

Ceramic objects were diverse in shape and decoration. Bowls, jugs, plates, lamps, and other objects were created in accordance with the needs of the people.

- Patterns: geometric shapes, Islamic patterns, plant and animal images were widely used. These patterns expressed the worldview and spiritual world of the people.

- Colors: blue, green, white and brown tones were widely used. Especially in Rishton pottery, blue dominates.

- Shapes: the shape of ceramic objects was not only practical, but also aesthetically perfect.

Pottery reflects the people's desire for beauty, creativity and aesthetic views. Each pattern and color expressed the spiritual world and national values of the people.

Each craft was laborious and had its own secrets. Since ancient times, our ancestors taught the secrets and experiences of artistic pottery only to their students, and not to other children. For centuries, people have been studying the secrets of pottery, paying special attention to the quality, ease of use, and durability of each product. That is why the durability of the tiles they make, from simple ceramic bowls to the tiles that adorn oriental architecture, amazes the world.

- Clay vases are made of sericulture clay. Very thin vases are made from this clay. It has elastic properties and is made with jusha clay.

- Porcelain clay or white clay is made by adding limestone and alkali to dark clay. This clay was used to make bowls, cups, plates, and other items.

- Kesma kashin clay - a refractory dark clay, that is, made by adding white stone or white sand to the gilvat. Various mosaic tiles were made from it.

- Kashin clay - a variety of tiles were made by adding quartz sand to the shale clay.

- Kosagor clay - was called patloy or plate clay.

- Gzu clay was made by mixing reed stalks with soz clay. Flat-surfaced dishes were made from it.

- Kosagor clay consists of 60-79% plastic oily clay and 30-40% soz clay.

Pottery and the people's lifestyle

Ceramic dishes were used in everyday life to store food, transport water, and prepare food. Specially decorated dishes during ceremonies acquired religious and social significance. For example, ceramic plates used at weddings and holidays reflected the aesthetic views of the people.

Ceramics also played an important role in trade. Ceramics produced in Uzbekistan were exported to other countries along the ancient Silk Road. This shows that the art of Uzbek ceramics is known internationally.

Ceramic centers

Ceramic centers have formed in various regions of Uzbekistan.

- Rishton (Fergana Valley) - famous for its blue-glazed ceramic products. Rishton masters have been preserving their traditions for centuries.

- Gijduvon (Bukhara region) - distinguished by traditional patterns and shapes. Here, masters have been teaching their art from generation to generation.

- Khiva and Samarkand are known as historical centers of pottery. These cities played an important role in the development of the art of pottery.

Each center has its own style and artistic tradition, demonstrating the diversity of Uzbek culture.

Expression of cultural heritage through pottery

Pottery reflects the aesthetic views and worldview of the people. Each pattern and color expresses the spiritual world, religious beliefs and national values of the people. The art of pottery has been passed down from generation to generation and has become an integral part of the national heritage.

Conclusion

Students understand the historical development and cultural wealth of Uzbekistan through pottery. This art demonstrates the creativity of the people and their desire for beauty.

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