

Factory Production Ceramic Collection

The University of Pretoria has a rich and diverse collection of local South African factory production ceramics. These date back from around the 1940s through to the 1960s, and consist of examples from ceramic factories such as Crescent Potteries, Linnware Studio, Drostdy Ware, Rand Ceramic Industries, Old Jar Potteries, Lucia Ware, Boksburg East Potteries, Kalahari Studio and Vermont Ware amongst many others.

South African Studio Ceramic Collection

South African studio ceramics are continually pushing boundaries and breaking traditions as the fine line of African traditional pottery has blurred with the rise of contemporary decorative ceramic art. Although local studio ceramics began as a vehicle for economic and artistic empowerment, both the traditional rural ceramicist and the fine art ceramicist are ensuring the survival of local ceramic making as it continues to thrive in South Africa. For example, Ardmore ceramics are the most widely recognised studio in South Africa, and is internationally renowned.

Traditional African Historical Collection

This small, yet significant collection of local southern African traditional pottery dating as far back as the 1920s stems from the University of Pretoria's history of collecting for ethnographic and anthropological purposes. Whether through fieldwork, bequests or donations, this range of pottery reflects examples of the Ovambo in Namibia through to Zulu, Pedi, Sotho and Venda pottery that constitute this historical museum collection.

Exhibition Catalogue

South African Ceramics: Museum Ceramic Collections of the University of Pretoria (2016)

By Sian L. Tiley-Nel and Gerard C. de Kamper

Accompanying the African Ceramics gallery (*Letsopa* exhibition) and the South African ceramics gallery is a beautiful catalogue that serves as a testament to the diversity, beauty, range and depth of the local ceramic collections. They range from the archaeological period (13th century) through to 20th century South African factory production and studio ceramics, and include many traditional historical and contemporary art ceramics. Exhibition catalogue for sale @ R150.



Admission - Free of charge

Hours - Open Monday to Friday 08:00 -16:00

Contact - 012 420 5450 / 012 420 2968

Email - museums@up.ac.za

Tours - hcstours@up.ac.za or Tel: 012 420 5155

Visit - www.up.ac.za/up-arts

Location - Hatfield Campus, Old Arts Building

GPS Coordinates: 25°45'14.9"S 28°13'48.7"E



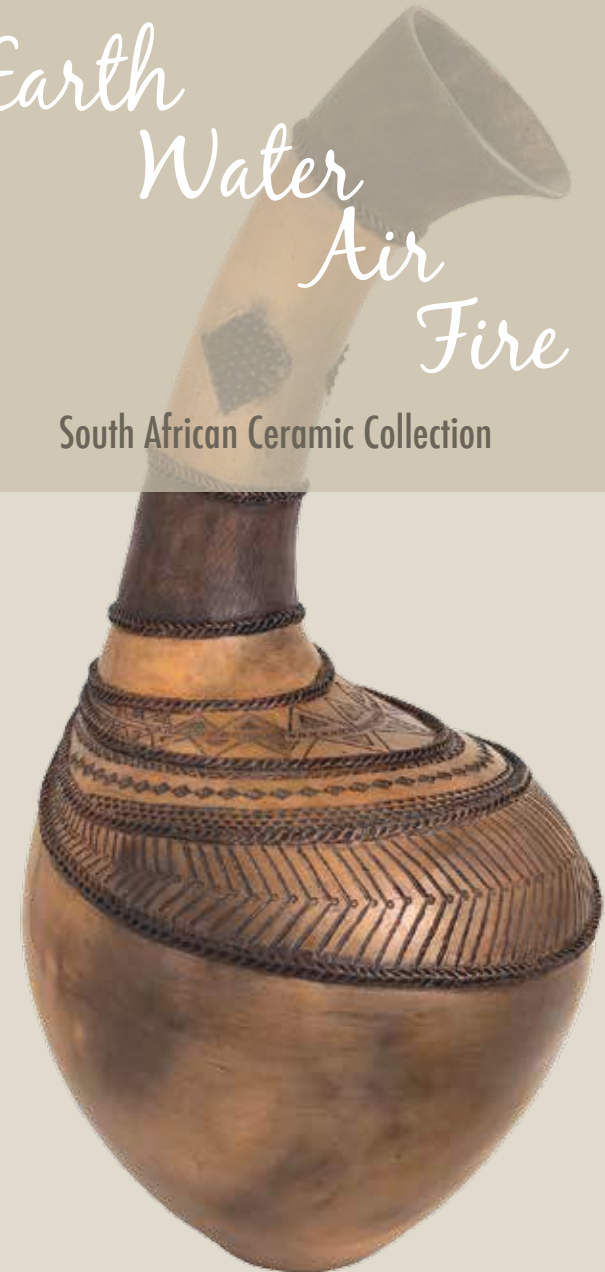
UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

UNIVERSITY of PRETORIA MUSEUMS

Department of UP Arts

Earth
Water
Air
Fire

South African Ceramic Collection



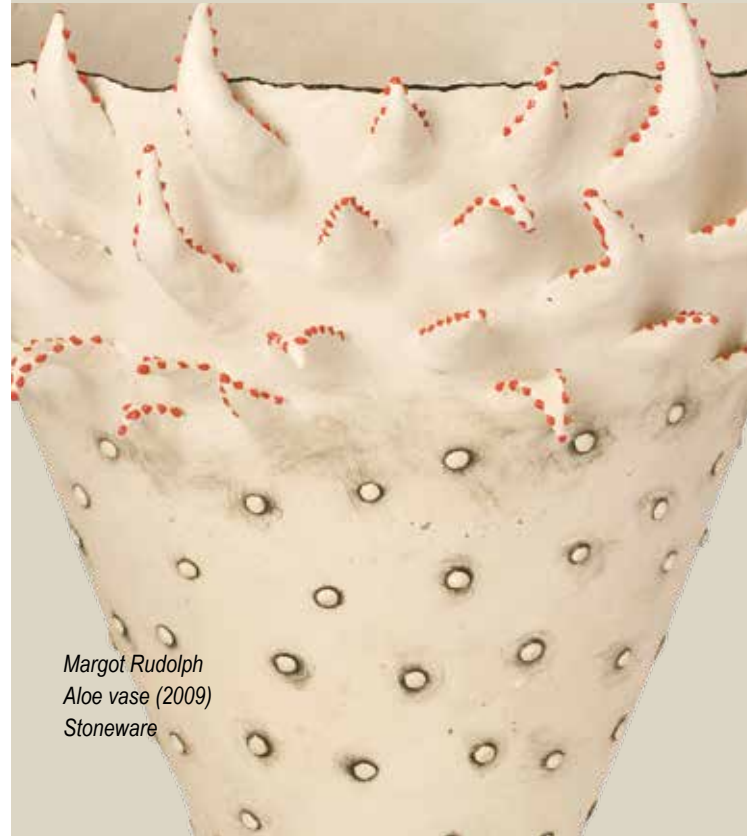
Worldwide, the foundation of all ceramics lies within the four universal basics of Earth, Water, Air and Fire that, together, connect the underlying natural elements from which ceramics are derived. Earth is mixed with water to make the clay workable. The resulting form is then dried by air. Finally, by subjection to fire, the clay becomes a hard and durable ceramic. These elementary building blocks are necessary for the production of ceramics and also comprise the artistic, social, economic, political, historical, cultural and symbolic foundations of ceramics.



Henriette Ngako
Spirit of the ancestors (1992)
Hand-painted earthenware

History

The University of Pretoria Museums house one of the largest ceramic collections in South Africa. This includes an exceptional collection of archaeological ceramics from the Iron Age that date from about AD 900 to AD 1300. There is also a small and expanding collection of local South African factory production and studio ceramics through to contemporary art ceramics. Over recent years, these collections have grown as a result of annual acquisitions, new purchases and from the continued generous donations by organisation and individuals that have enhanced these collections.



Margot Rudolph
Aloe vase (2009)
Stoneware

Archaeological Ceramic Collection

The oldest collection founded in 1933 is the K2 and Mapungubwe ceramic collection that was acquired through archaeological excavations. Accumulated for research purposes, this expansive collection consists of shallow bowls, beakers, beaker bowls, recurved jars, spouted pots, miniature vessels among many other vessel forms including clay figurines and clay spindle whorls. The archaeological ceramics form part of the largest comparative Iron Age ceramic collection in southern Africa and are actively used for research purposes.



Ardmore
Rabbit and eagle tureen (2004)
Glazed earthenware