

Hand Building 26/03/2020

Coil pots

Coil pots have been made for many thousands of years. From Africa to Greece and from China to New Mexico. Some of the earliest pottery is found in Antolia and attributed to cave dwelling people dating from 7000BC.

Coil pots can start from a flat base or a base made in a mould to give a curved base. A lump of clay is rolled between the hands and rolled backwards and forwards on a flat surface, to make a coil. This can be added to the base to build walls. Coils can be used to change the shape of the vessel. Pots can have to change the shape of the vessel.

Pots can have necks, tummies and shoulders. Slurry is used to join the coils and to make the walls strong. After three rows it is good to pat the surface with a wooden tool, this compacts the particles of the clay and makes the walls stronger. Coiled vessels can be thinned by scraping. Coil pots can have foot rings, lids and handles .

Potters that use coiling include Kate Malone and Magdalene Odundo.

