



The creativity and talents of the Xhosa women have been well recognised and none more so than the women of Thobelani Originals, each of them gifted potters in their own right.

Thobelani was developed so that the women of the Tsolwana region could change their own lives. They didn't want a hand-out, they wanted to develop their own individual skills and talents in order to achieve self-respect. Thobelani is the Xhosa name for Respect.

These women have worked hard at their craft. They have attended many workshops and pottery sessions to hone their skills to a level where their pots can be considered masterpieces. Nothing less was acceptable to them.

It is, therefore, with great pride that the team has launched Thobelani Originals, a company formed to take their acclaimed pots to art lovers' worldwide.



The pots crafted at Thobelani Originals are for collectors and purveyors of fine earthenware. Each pot is hand made in the age-old tradition of pit firing and burnishing bringing together primitive methods and Xhosa creativity, with a unique outcome.

Each potter has her own individual style and we are sure you will appreciate the time, passion and commitment they have given to their craft.

Their goal is to create legacies; for you, for them and for their children. A noble cause indeed!

Buy a piece of Thobelani pottery and secure a piece of Xhosa tradition.



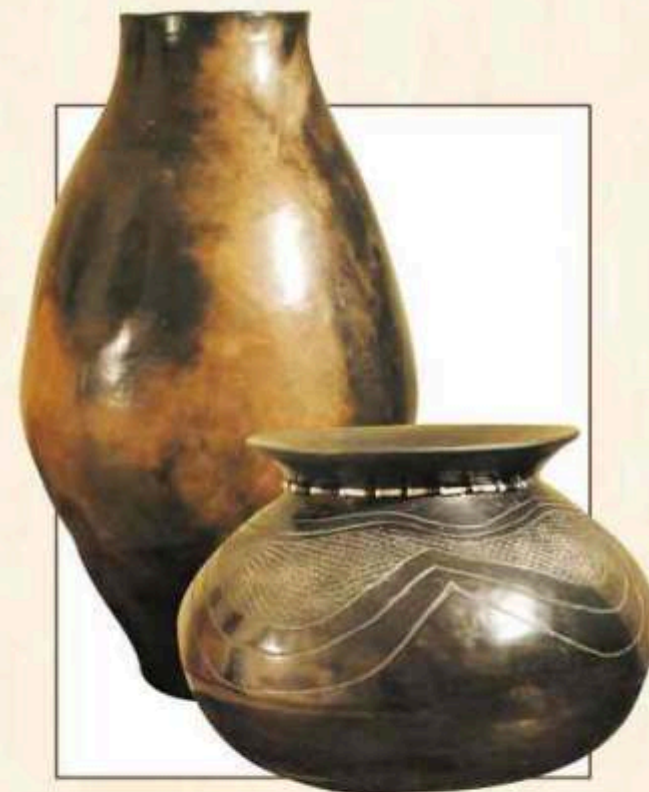
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ART OF AFRICA





The Thobelani Originals pieces are all hand made, unique items. All pots are pit fired making use of the traditional techniques of early cultures when they made their first foray into pottery with burnished wares fired in open fires. Pit firing is one of the most primitive methods still in use today, with the final surface being polished, or burnished, to create a unique finish that is highly sought after.

What some of our Client's have said:

"I love collecting original pieces of artwork and I want to thank Mavis for the beautiful heirloom. She has crafted an absolute masterpiece! The pot has pride of place in our home and is an ongoing reminder of our wonderful holiday."

Dianne Perrett
South Africa

"I am the proud owner of a Thobelani Original pit fired pot made by Notizi Gqaji. I particularly like the style and proportions of the pot and the deep earthy colors blend well with all decorating styles."

Joanne Muller
South Africa

"I really cherish the Thobelani unique pot and bowls I obtained in South Africa. They are truly works of art and have a place of honor in my home. I love collecting art and cultural objects from places I have visited and these are truly one of a kind!"

Phyllis Murdock
Louisanna USA

The pot making process



The pots are hand-made using the coil method. When they are nearly dry (leatherhard) they are burnished. They are then pit fired to achieve the rich brown black.

