

How Mata Ortiz Pottery is Made

Mata Ortiz pottery is handmade from start to finish, using techniques inspired by ancient pottery shards found near the village. Today, while every artist has their own unique style, most follow these basic steps.

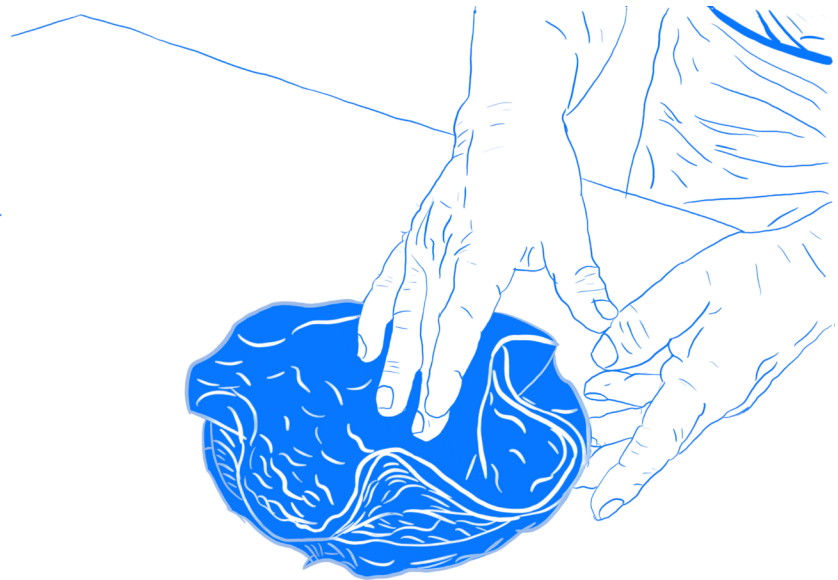
1



The clay is mixed with water, screened to remove impurities, and then allowed to settle and thicken.

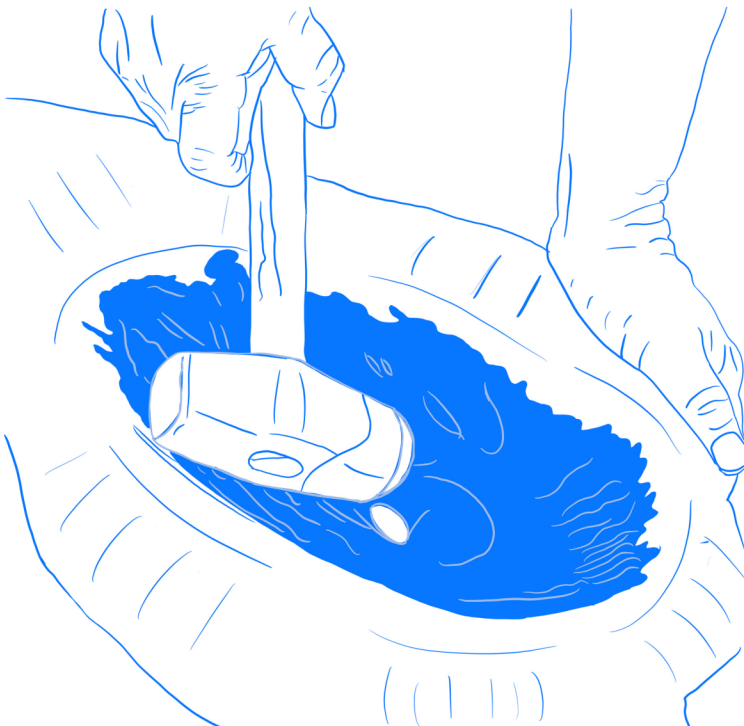
2

The pot is turned, pinched again, and shaped layer by layer.



3

Pigments are mixed with water to create paint, which is then brushed onto a dried pot.



4

Potters fire pottery in a stone-lined pit, then smother it with dirt to cool slowly and create unique colors and patterns.



Art and design by Nico Kossakowski for *In Their Hands: The Evolution of Mata Ortiz Pottery*. Visit amoca.org/exhibitions for exhibition information.