

Design Resource

## Decorative Pot - Kolkata

Flower vase

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/decorative-pot-kolkata>



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## Introduction

A vase is an open container made out of a range of materials like ceramics, glass, wood, or non-rusting metals, such as aluminum, brass, bronze, or stainless steel. These vases are either used as decorative items or to hold cut flowers. Their foot is mostly flat and bulbous, and the body is shaped into forms taking the largest portion of the piece. Some of the vases possess handles, shoulders, long necks, or a lip that barges out at the top. The history of vases is spread across the world as different forms originated at varied sites at different periods for various purposes. Chinese ceramics and Native American pottery are the most regarded among them, popularized mainly in the medieval period. Greece also accounts for vase painting as a traditional term for fine painted pottery, embellished with elaborate figures from Greek mythology.

Sicilian vase painting is a regional style vase painting from South Italy, whose production started at the end of 5th century B.C., making it the oldest known form. In contrast, Etruscan vase painting is a Greek art-inspired style that makes richly decorated vases. Paestan vase painting is a type that used to carry mostly female figures finished in a linear fashion, but later this painting came to a halt due to cultural conflicts. Euboean vase painting is a regional Greek-style painting still practiced on the island of Euboea. It is finished on vessels decorated with suspended concentric semicircles. Bilingual vase painting is a combination of two colors, black and red, which gained momentum in the last quarter of 6th century B.C. and later won the market growing into a dominant form rather very fast.

Handicrafts form the basis of the cultural setup of any country. The state of West Bengal from India has always been famous for its handicrafts and handlooms. The handicrafts with years of innovation have reached a point where each item is improvised every year while maintaining its essence of tradition. Well, known varieties of decorative vases are done using natural materials like terracotta, ceramic, limestone, jute, wood, bamboo, etc. Mrs. Debanti Sen is a Kolkata-based artisan specialized in handcrafted products like terracotta masks, terracotta vases, m-seal jewelry, jute products, and shola products. He, who is in the business for eight years, runs workshops and trains people interested in the art forms with a single goal to preserve our traditional crafts most efficiently.

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Mrs. Debanti Sen, an artisan from Kolkata specialized in decorative pot making. A flower vase with women portrait.

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Terracotta pot beautifully decorated with jute thread.



Artisan working on the decorative pot with utmost commitment.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for decorative pot are as follows:

- **Clay Vase:** It is used as a basic material in decorating the vase.
- **Acrylic Paint:** It is used to paint the clay vase.
- **Water:** It is used to reduce the density of paint while painting.
- **Paint Brush:** It is used to brush the paint on the vase.
- **Twine String:** It is used to decorate the painted vase after painting.
- **Adhesive:** It is used to stick the twine string on the vase.
- **Scissors:** It is used to trim the measured twine string as per the requirement.
- **Decorative Beads:** It is used to decorate the vase in a creatively.



Jute thread is used to decorate the pot.

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Acrylic colors are used to paint the decorative piece.



Beads used to add beauty to the pot.



A paintbrush is used for painting purpose.

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Scissors are used for cutting out extra threads.

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## Making Process

At Debanti Sen's workshop, decorative vases are made out of a clay vase. Taking the vase as a base structure, the artisan starts with the painting process. Here the body of the vase is painted with the intended color using acrylic paints and paintbrushes. Once the whole body is painted, it is left to dry for 20 to 30 minutes. Later the dried vase is comfortably held by the artisan to apply adhesives around the neck, followed by rolling of twine strings over them. It is taken care that more than eight rolls are made, and they are fitted tightly to the vase. After this, the artisan proceeds to the middle portion, where a decorative red stone is glued to the center portion for added beauty. Now artisan cuts a twine string into twelve pieces using scissors, and these pieces are attached to the vase in the shape of a flower using an adhesive. The same procedure is followed on the other end of the pot. Once done, black acrylic paint is applied to the center bead in the shape of a circle, thus completing the vase painting process.



Artisan working on a flower vase.

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Black acrylic paint being applied over the pot using a paintbrush.



The interiors of the pot are being painted.

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Jute thread is circled on the glued areas.



Pot left to dry.

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Jute thread being cut and shaped into an intended form.



Creative patterns being made using jute thread and beads.

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Additional designs added using acrylic paints.



Beautifully decorated terracotta vase.

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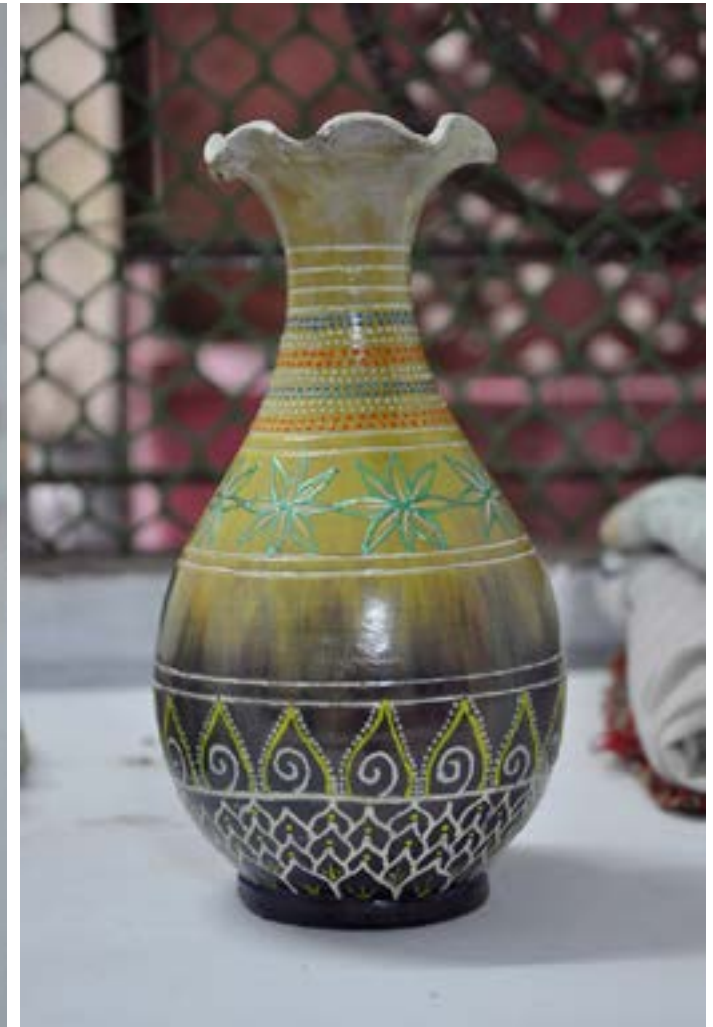
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## Products

Products made by Mrs. Debanti Sen and the team include terracotta masks, terracotta vases, m-seal jewelry, jute products, and shola products. Here the cost of the products ranges from INR 600 to INR 1,200, which defers as per the product type, size, detailing given, and raw materials used. The minimum size of the vase is often 6 inches, while the maximum goes up to 18 inches.



A Terracotta mask is painted with different patterns.



Multi-color pot with a unique design.

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Pots with flower design and illusion signs.



Terracotta pot with spiral design.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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