CHULUCANAS

LOOKBOOK 2023

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Chulucanas, a small village located North of Peru near Ecuador, produces one of the most impressive and unique pottery in the World. Artisans here combine the traditional technique of throwing pots in potter´s Wheels, paint them with natural slips and burnish the pots with cobble stones to get the first shine.

First firing is made in kilns at 800o C and then fired for the second time using mango leaves as fuel. This last step is what gives the pots an amazing extra shine in combination with the positive negative technique as used in the Vicus precolumbian culture (150 BC).

First pots were shaped with the use of a wooden paddle: huge vases to hold water and chicha (fermented corn beverage), bowls and casseroles for cooking and daily use. In year 2000 Allpa introduced new tools and techniques such as the potter´s wheel, jiggers, slab rollers, molds for casting, improved kilns and new color palettes as a way to increase productivity and improve this pottery´s opportunities in the market.

Using mango leaves as fuel...

Traditional and new shapes are now made by Chulucanas artisans, sometimes keeping their terracotta color and the classic Black and White, now adding modern and subtle greys, beiges and pastels shades, which makes them very well adapted to modern design.

Painting is hand made with the use of slips and natural pigments.

The smoke firing is what makes this pottery unique because of the special shine that mango leaves resin produce. This technique is specially used for the positive negative effect, reserving the area that the artist wants to highlight in the final pot. This effect is clearly seen in the pot that appears in the front and last pages of this booklet.

Burnishing with pebble stones...
This great pottery creates jobs for Peruvian artisans by keeping tradition and blending it with contemporary ideas.

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