“These are relatives; they are not just pots, they’re our living entities, they’re people; and we talk to them. When I’m making, building, I talk to them and it makes you feel good to talk, and it seems to go better, y’know? You do better.”

-Erik Fender, San Ildefonso potter and curator

To Know The Fire
Pueblo Women Potters and the Shaping of History

Why do these hands look like earth or clay? Find out on the next page!

Cover image: Lucy M. Lewis (Acoma Pueblo (Haak’u), NM, USA), Polychrome Jar, 20th century, Earthenware. 2020-8-14. © Lucy Lewis.


All: George Ogura Collection, Gift of Shozo Sato and Mrs. Alice Ogura Sato for the late Dr. George I. Ogura.
This checkerboard pattern has been used by different artists over time to show the night sky or Milky Way, planted cornfields, or when combined with a scroll detail, running water.

What does it look like to you?

- **Night sky!**
- **Milky Way!**
- **Planted cornfields!**

Watch *How San Ildefonso Pottery Was Made*. How would you describe this process?

Write your descriptions in the yellow clay puddles!
Pattern Scavenger Hunt!

How many of these patterns can you find in the gallery?

5. Lucy M. Lewis (Acoma Pueblo (Haak’u), NM, USA), Black-on-white Fineline Jar, 20th century. Earthenware. 2020-8-15. © Lucy Lewis.


Look at what you are wearing. Do you notice any patterns? Draw them here!
“What can one do about one’s skin? We, who are clay blended by the Master Potter, come from the kiln of creation in many hues. How can people say one skin is colored, when each has its own coloration?”

–Polingaysi Qöyawyma, From Wise Women: From Pocahontas to Sarah Winnemucca; Remarkable Stories of Native American Trailblazers

Watch Beauty from the Earth in which artist Mary Lewis Garcia talks about how she learned pottery from her mother, prominent potter Lucy M. Lewis.
Connection to the Land

'Tewa Prayer to Clay Mother

Clay mother,
I have come to the center of your abode,
feed me and clothe me
and in the end you will absorb me
into your center.
However far you travel,
do not go crying.

-From Mud Woman: Poems From The Clay (1992) by Nora Naranjo-Morse
How many places are you from? Mark them on this map.

How would you describe your relationship with these lands?

Who originally lived on these lands?

What would you say to these lands?
This Self-Guide is designed for Close Looking.

Spend time in the gallery and look at the pots, *really look*, as slowly and as closely as you can.

Use this booklet as a guide to discover something new!