

Kay'wawaysetoh DECORATE IT

In addition to their many uses, ceramics are a medium where potters can express their identity, artistic talents, and beliefs. The designs ancient potters carved into clay reflect their training, the styles common to their families and communities, as well as personal expression.

Anderson incised ceramic vessel
Courtesy Ohio History Connection
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Marsha Meyers adorns her vessel.

One of the most common designs on Fort Ancient pottery is guilloche - two or more continuous bands of intertwined design. We don't know how this term became associated with Fort Ancient pottery. It is a French word originating from around 1860. Instead of the French word guilloche, we suggest using the Shawnee word pa'peya'menakwe - weaver or pattern.