

Enhancing Ceramic Body Compositions through Local Resource Utilization in South Qena

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Abstract:

Naqada, located in Upper Egypt's South Qena Governorate, possesses a rich pottery heritage extending back to pre-dynastic times in Ancient Egyptian. This research examines the challenges confronting this historically and culturally significant craft, which produces diverse pottery forms for various uses. The craft faces numerous obstacles throughout the production process, from obtaining the raw material and processing to shaping, production, and firing. This study focuses on improving the ceramic body compositions used by Naqada workshops, which currently utilise Nile silt and Hamer stone. The research aims to optimise body preparation methods and adjust the proportions of raw materials and additives. Key objectives include enhancing plasticity for forming through the throwing wheel, improving body smoothness for product quality improvement, especially in cookware, and increasing fired product hardness at low temperatures around 800°C. Critically, the research prioritises maximising the use of locally available materials and respecting existing workshop conditions and capabilities to ensure practical and sustainable improvements for this vital craft.

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