



Earthenware production, Ban Talat,  
Korat Province, northeast Thailand, 1995

# Pots and how they are made in mainland Southeast Asia

Louise Allison Cort and Leedom Lefferts  
Friday, 17 February 2012, 7 to 8.30pm  
Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum

Potters at work today in mainland Southeast Asia make either earthenware or stoneware vessels for local and regional markets. These two basic types of ceramics continue to play important roles in local food preparation and storage, and in religious rituals. Field research conducted by Cort and Lefferts has included all extant pot-making communities in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and southern Yunnan province in China. Methods of pottery production cut across modern political borders to reveal fundamental links among language and cultural groups, and hint at patterns of migration and interaction. In this lecture, Cort and Lefferts will introduce some of the memorable potters they have met, as well as share video clips and images of how these pots are made.

## About the speakers

Louise Allison Cort is curator for ceramics at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, USA. Her most recent publication is the online catalogue, *Ceramics in Mainland Southeast Asia* (<http://SEAsianCeramics.asia.si.edu>).

Dr Leedom Lefferts is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Asian Civilisations Museum. He is professor emeritus of anthropology, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, USA, and research associate of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He has authored numerous publications on textiles, ceramics and Buddhism in northeast Thailand, including "The Bun Phra Wet Painted Scrolls of Northeastern Thailand," in the *Journal of the Walters Art Museum* (2009).

This lecture is free. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration is required.

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