An ancient city was a city of clay: from the architectural terracottas on roofs of homes and temples, to the clay drainage pipes underground, Greeks potters mastered earth and fire to produce almost everything a household and a city needed from the mundane to the exquisite. In this richly illustrated lecture Professor Hasaki provides a closer look at how ancient Greek potters transformed their natural resources into functional ceramics which their communities used as construction material and kitchen equipment in their homes, sacred dedications in their sanctuaries, or commemorative offerings in their graves. Potters mastered the qualities of different clays and fine-tuned their potters’ wheels to produce fine ceramics with extremely thin walls and cooking pots with first-rate thermal qualities. They also mastered fire in complicated prolonged kiln firings and learned how to anticipate the final appearances of pots with no modern thermometers or testing equipment. While perfecting their technical know-how, Greek potters also portrayed the mythology of the divine realm and everyday life of their cities—from quarrels among the gods to domestic occupations. Their products enjoyed high popularity at home and across the Mediterranean.

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