

# Samuel Manymules: Tuba City, Arizona

*Navajo*

*Pottery*



Samuel Manymules was born in 1963 of the Bitterwater Clan for the Nakai Dine Clan. He is a self-taught potter who has been improving his craft for over a decade.

The vessels Samuel makes are of traditional materials. Usually he has an idea of a shape or size, but other thoughts or events may intervene affecting the final form. He begins by gathering pure clay from riverbeds which is then dried in the

sun for three to four months. He also uses temper, volcanic ash, silt, or pottery shards. After hand mixing, the clay is set aside for curing. After many months of preparation, the clay mixture is ready for use. His method for building a vessel begins with a slab of clay. He utilizes coiling, scraping and sometimes carving to achieve his desired shape. Appliqué, incised design, and paints are added after the initial building. While the vessel dries he continues to polish it. The final stages are the all day process of firing and after the vessel is cooled the pottery is polished with a cotton cloth to a high sheen.

Samuel has won numerous awards including a recent Red Ribbon at the 2010 Heard Museum Guild Fair & Market, a Blue Ribbon at the 2009 Santa Fe Indian Market and a Judges' Choice Award at the 2009 Heard Show.

