



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



Goldfish Paperweight

Add a perfect splash of shimmering colour to your workspace! Created from natural rocks gathered from local rivers and polished underwater. Silver foil, paint and lacquer bring the iridescent orange swirl of fish to life.



Special Details:

The town of Bat Trang – located about 13km southeast of the capital, Hanoi – is well known throughout Vietnam for its beautiful ceramics, which harmonize the best of modelling, sculpture, design, and colour. In the late 15th century, Thanh Hoa potters founded Bat Trang, settling there because of the rich deposits of white clay. In this relatively small town there are at least 2,000 families representing approximately 10,000 artisans.

While blue and white dinnerware and tiny ornaments characterized by intricately-detailed patterns remain the traditional style, the potters create a wide variety of products featuring an array of shapes, colours, and sizes – some vases even as large as 7 ft tall!

To produce these exquisite ceramics, artisans first mix the clay, then pour it by hand into molds. Once these molds are dried and the seams are smoothed away, each individual piece is painstakingly hand-detailed by an artisan. Small details are attached with clay slip, and designs are skillfully painted on by free-hand. After glazes (made using ground-up recycled bottles) have been applied, the pieces are then set aside to dry and stacked inside the kiln to begin the firing process.

Materials:

stone

About the Artisans

MAI Vietnamese Handicrafts

Mai Handicrafts is a non-profit organization founded by social workers concerned about the plight of street children in Ho Chi Minh City. At the time, schooling was only available to those who held legal papers and could afford the tuition fees. Street children, meeting neither of these requirements, were excluded. Mai Handicrafts gave work to youth and provided them with informal literacy classes. Now that schooling is free for all children in Vietnam, Mai Handicrafts provides work for the marginalized, including women and ethnic minority groups. Artisans receive social and health care insurance and may apply for scholarship funds. The organization funds community development activities including clean water projects, vocational training, equipment purchases and teacher wage subsidies. Mai has also responded to environmental concerns by collecting waste material for recycling – some of which is utilized in the creation of new products – and hiring young women to work after school cutting and forming boxes rather than buying ready-made packaging materials.

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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