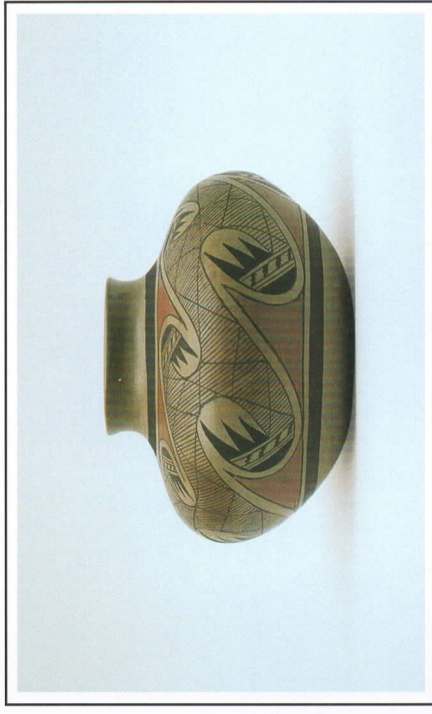


Nampeyo is the surname taken by the most significant family of potters on the Hopi mesas in central Arizona. Fanny was the daughter of Nampeyo of Heno (ca.1860-1942), the matriarch of the family, and as a child learned to make, polish, and decorate pots at her famous mother's side. Fanny's pots, mostly vases with wide mouths, were begun by using a small shallow unfired bowl (puki) or a fired shard to shape the foot. Coils of clay were then rolled out and stacked one on top of the other to form the vessel. A variety of tools, usually shaped pieces of gourds, were used along with fingers to smooth, shape, and polish each piece and prepare it for painting. The distinctive unblemished quality and color of Hopi clay makes it extremely smooth, and it fires to a matt tawny yellow color with variations in tone and hue. Fanny was adept at painting every major Hopi pattern including eagle tails, spider designs, and cloud patterns. Her hallmark, the migration wingtip and feather design, undulates around this polychromed jar, dating to about 1950.



Fanny Nampeyo
American (Hopi Pueblo, Arizona), 1900-1987
Polychromed Jar, ca. 1950
Earthenware, height: 5½ inches
Gift: A. James and Beth Fillmore
1998.11