

Baidy, Artist and God's Child

Baidy (Ma. Thybaida) Mendoza works with terra cotta and clay.* All her life, she has always wanted to become an artist. As a preparation, she took up a philosophy course at the University of Sto. Tomas for the background in humanities she felt she needed. Then she went to Grailville College in Ohio and to De Tiltenberg in the Netherlands for further studies in art and culture. She also went to Indonesia, Singapore (when it was still linked to Malaysia) and other Southeast Asian countries either as participant, observer or guest teacher.

It was in Java however where she lived in a house made of clay that she became deeply involved with the medium. Her themes include: Mother and Child, creches, Philippine mythology, masks, proverbs.

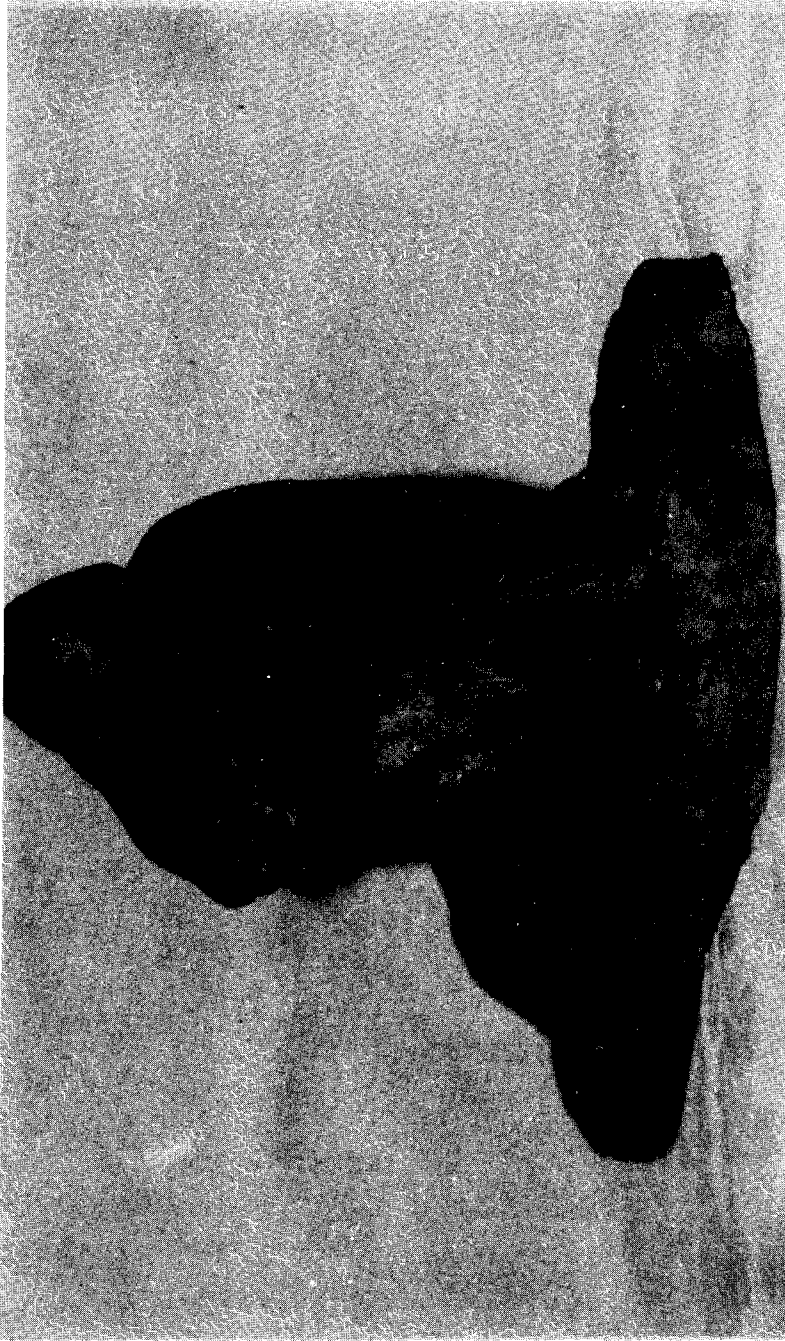
Baidy conducts open non formal studio workshops ("Now" workshops) with clay as an art medium. She continues the exploration of Philippine clay, Philippine themes, color shapes, and forms in nature. She believes that art should not only be seen but used and there is nothing she likes better than to be bending over her kiln making things people use in their daily lives.

As Baidy believes, so does she live. She says: "God has put us in this world to add to its beauty. . . To make something beautiful is to uplift . . . (In this way) we participate in the plan of creation."

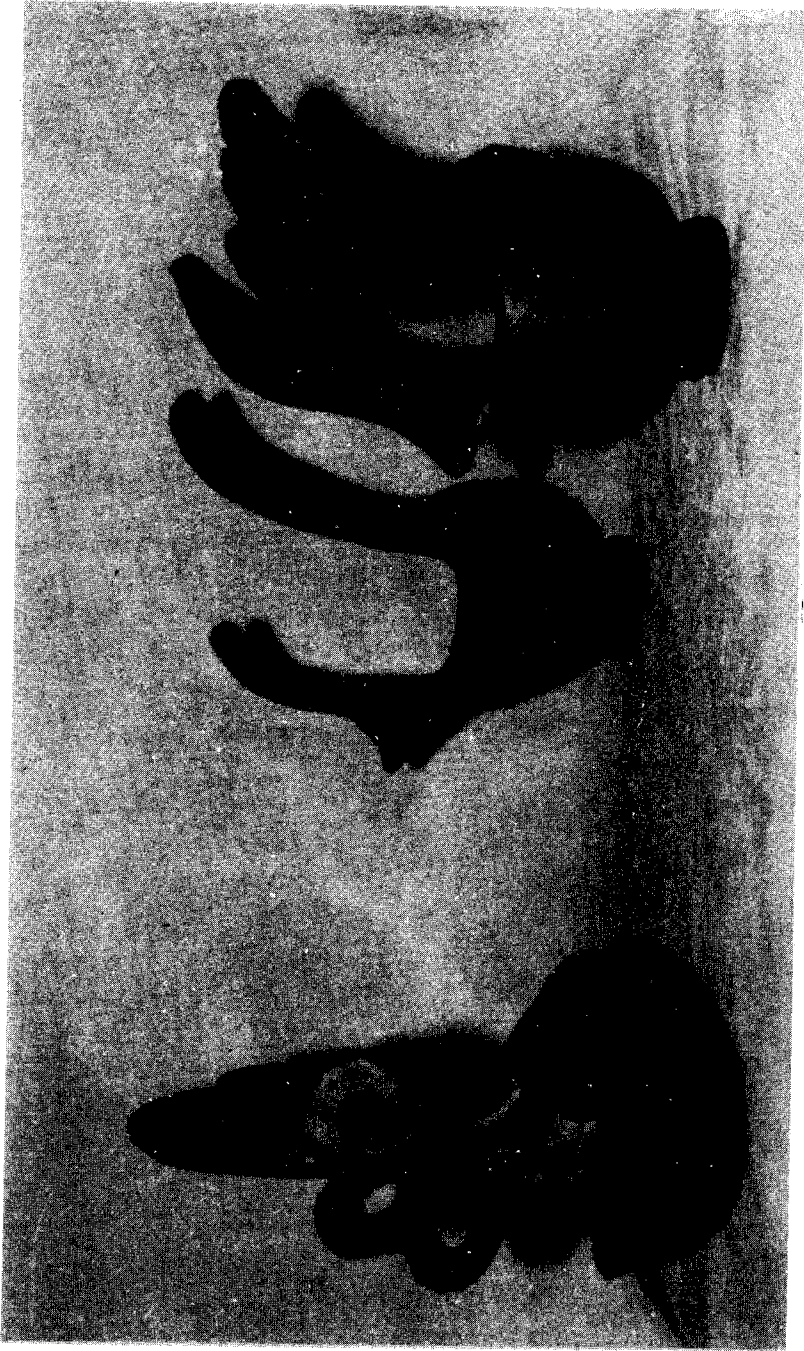
*Terra cotta is a kind of pottery used as a building material and in the decorative arts made of a red-brown clay.



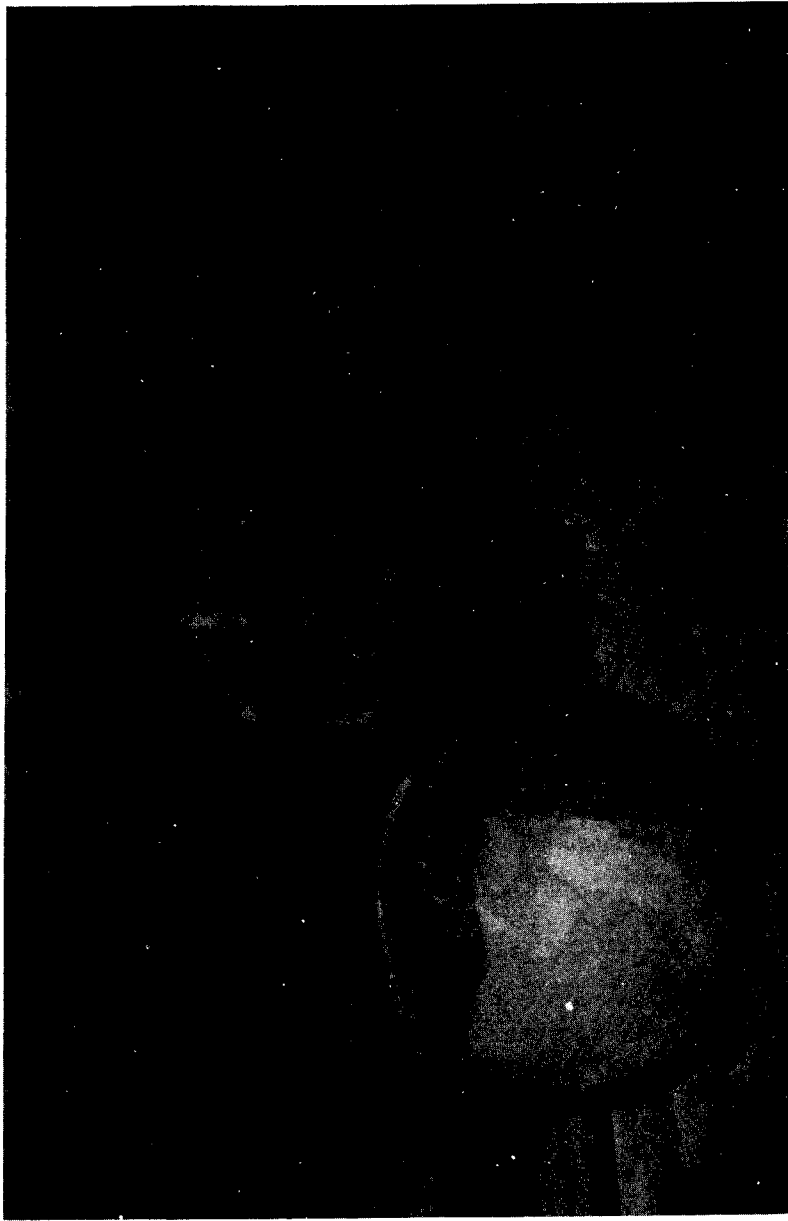
Buhay No. 2, coiled vessel



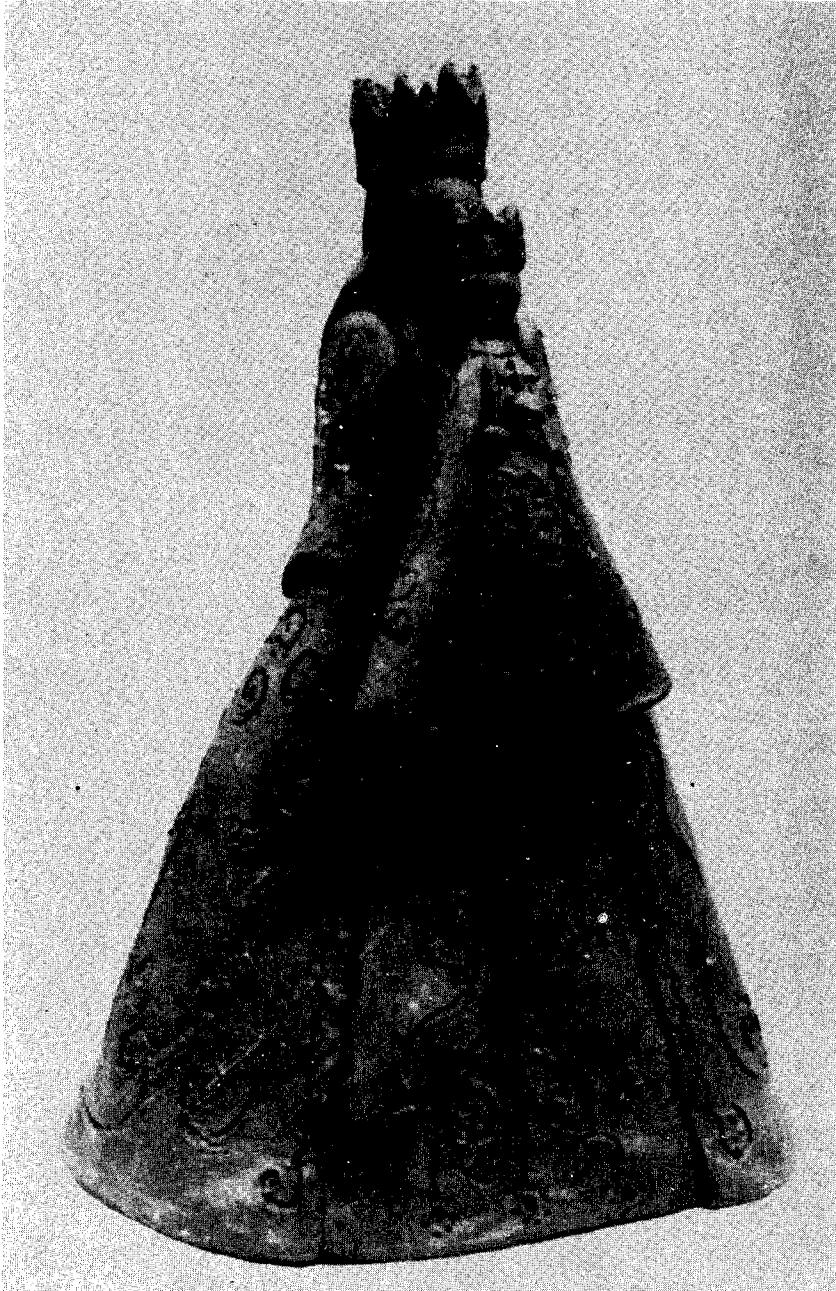
"Nagtatanim", Buhay No. 3, free form



Bird vessels



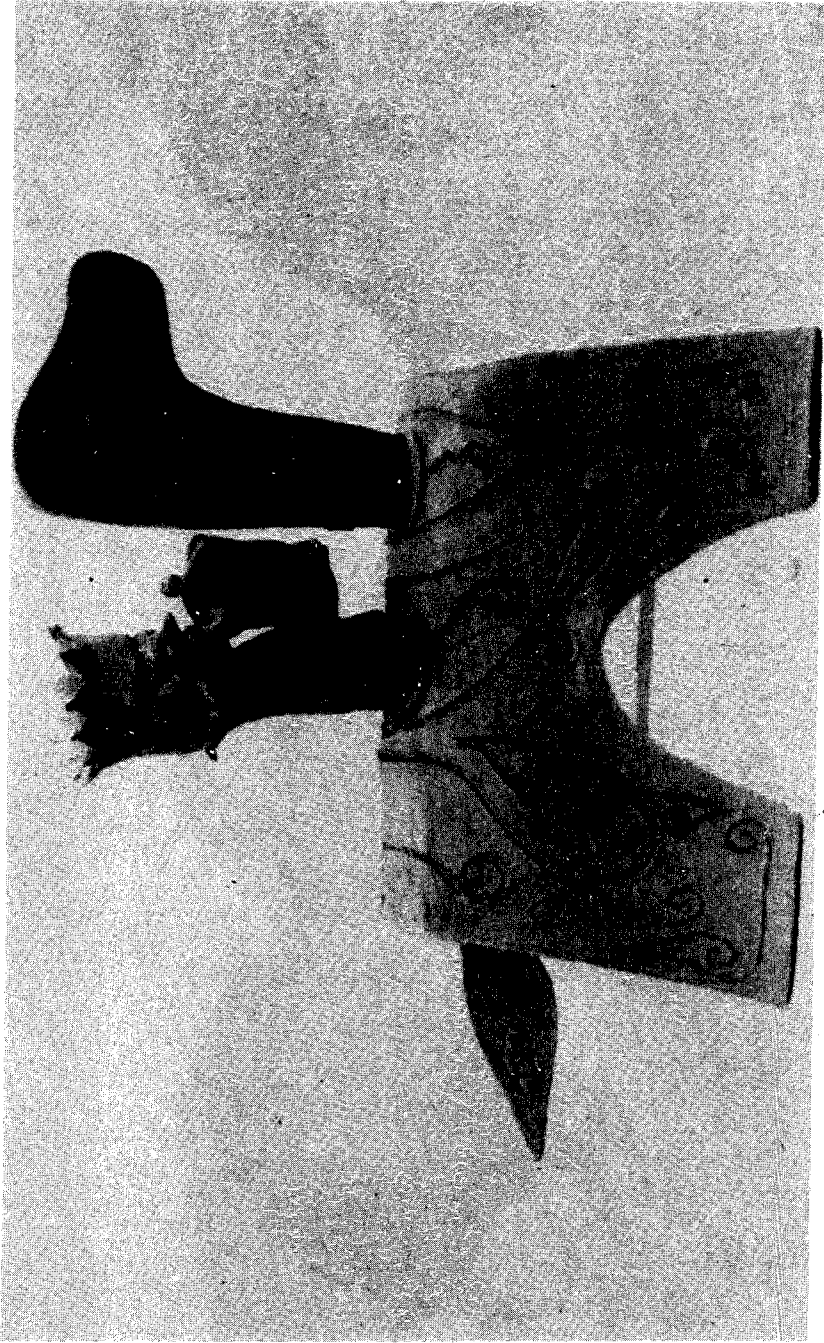
Vessels, round jars, bird pitchers



Madonna, etched cone slab



Boxes, scooped, free form



King, slabs, etched



Madonnas, wood stand, clay stand



Mariang Makiling vessel



Sitting madonna