



Narratives in Clay:  
Brazilian Folk Art

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# Brazilian Folk Art



Cover image, O Mundo da Arte Popular Brasileira.



Wedding



Vendor



Photographer



Doctor



Barber



Workers



Shoe Shine



Tailor

## Narratives in Clay

# Brazilian Folk Art, Ancient Greek Vases, and Ancient Egyptian Tableaux

### Background:

Narrative art tells a story. Brazilian Folk Art from the 19th and 20th centuries depicts scenes from everyday life, including life cycle events, celebrations and religious activities, historical events, vocations, games and amusements. A visit to the Museu Casa do Pontal a museum in Rio de Janeiro which houses over 8000 folk art sculptures, is like walking into the past to experience virtually the entire history of Brazil.

Brazilian folk artists typically use clay to create tableaux, though some tableaux are made from wood, metal or textiles. A tableau is a group of models or motionless figures representing a

scene from a story or from history.

Art that represents a form or the human figure is called "figurative." The folk art tableaux above are figurative art. Brazilian folk artists typically use simple modeling for the figures with close

Numerous cultures have used ceramics to document everyday activities. Consider the Ancient Greek narrative vases and the Ancient Egyptian ceramic tableaux to the right.

attention to details such as clothing, hair, faces and objects included within the tableau. The tableaux can be brightly painted in flat colors, painted using only natural clay colors, painted in subdued colors or left unpainted.

