

Majolica

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION

Majolica is a type of glazed, jeweled-toned pottery that takes its name from the Spanish island of Majorca, where it was made and exported to Italy during the Italian Renaissance.



Majolica's colorful designs are painted on a white, opaque surface. Themes of fauna and flora, especially leafy patterns, were popular. Many majolica pieces were fun and humorous.

Majolica was very popular during the Victorian era but it fell from fashion in the early 1900s. Since the 1960s it has regained its popularity, and reproductions abound.



Houston Museum
of Decorative Arts

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Anna Safley Houston collected majolica extensively. True to Victorian themes, many of her pieces reflect nature and the environment. Food shaped pieces were an interest for her and she referred to them as her “garden.”

Another favorite category was humorous tobacco jars, known as humidors.



Anna Safley Houston, pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.

