



## Occitan Cross

From ancient origins, you spot it since the beginning of our era and all along history. We found it during middle Age in Provence and Toulouse tales.

Nowadays, this cross represents Occitania. This land is about 190 000 Km<sup>2</sup> in size : 32 south french departments, a region in northern Italia and a Spanish valley.

Symbolism Plausible hypotheses :

- Shape reminds christian cross, the sun, or the wheel of time...
- Red and yellow : symbols of blood (human soul) and gold (burning gold, the sun :God so to speak)
- Numbers reminds :
  - for the 4 branches : 4 seasons or the 4 elements
  - for the 12 balls : the 12 apostles, the 12 months or the 12 zodiac signs.

## Raku's cooking process

It's a quick cooking technique invented in the 16th century by japanese potters for bowls manufacturing used during tea ceremony.

I remove pieces from oven around 900°, laying them on a straw or newspaper bed, it doesn't matter, the important being producing smoke. After putting a lid on it, which creates a reductive atmosphere, unglazed parts will absorb smoke and turn to black or gray with prints of unburned straw. Thermal shocks draw cracks. Sometimes I'm looking for metallic effects. I remove them from smoker tanks and immerse them in water. Last thing to do, is cleaning them with energy. That's magic !!! An eternal delight.

My creations are signed.

My wish : is that you feel the respect and love  
I put on every single one of them.

Sylvette CELMA