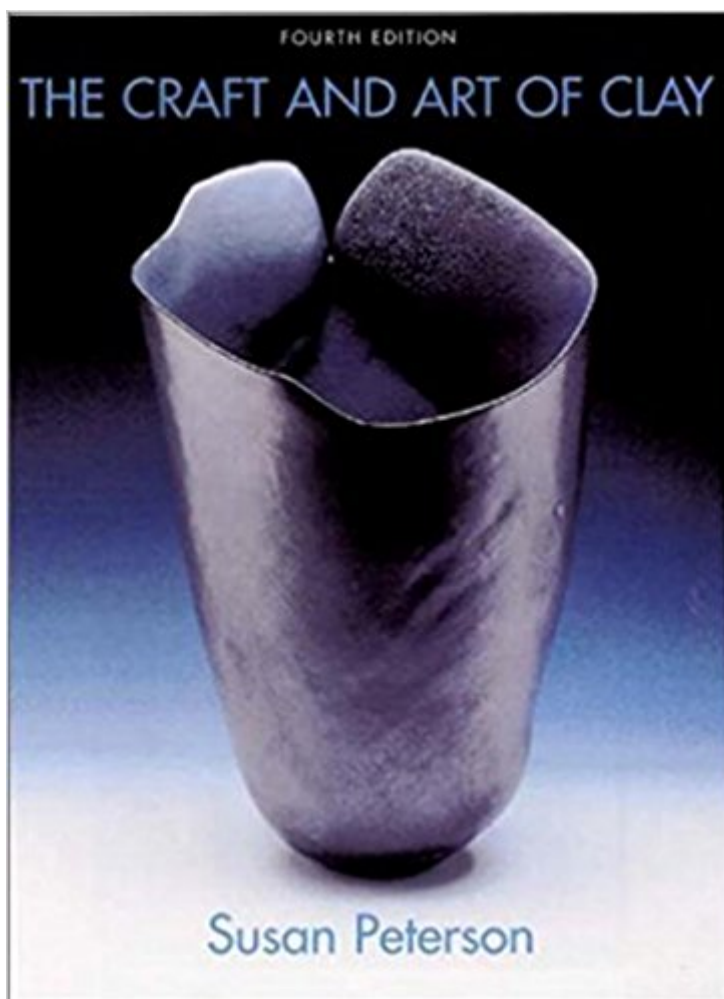


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The Craft And Art Of Clay



Synopsis

The Craft and Art of Clay, by leading ceramics teacher Susan Peterson, is the most comprehensive available guide to modern ceramics, packed with step-by-step illustrations of ceramic techniques to guide the beginner as well as inspirational ceramic pieces from contemporary potters from around the world. This completely revised fourth edition contains more than 150 new illustrations and includes profiles of key ceramists who have influenced the field, new material on marketing ceramics on the internet, and added coverage of paperclays, using gold, and alternative glazes. This is the one book no ceramist, whether novice or expert, can do without.

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Customer Reviews

Ceramists of all levels require a manual that both emphasizes technical know-how and devotes space to inspiring creativity with examples of innovative work. Peterson's expanded, copiously illustrated volume incorporates an extensive amount of valuable material for potters studying wheel-throwing or hand-built sculpture, clay and glaze chemistry, mold making, decorating methods, or firing techniques. Although many of the step-by-step photographs would be more effective if larger, Peterson cannot be faulted for her comprehensive approach to the subject matter. In addition to a compendium filled with information, there are engaging portfolios showing the historical evolution of ceramic art and a gallery of contemporary artists' works. For arts-and-craft collections, this resource offers instruction in all areas of ceramics. Alice Joyce --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A great asset for beginners and advanced ceramicists alike."

Greatt

This is a most useful and interesting book for anyone interested in clay. It provides tons of information on history, process, various techniques, particular artists, and is wonderfully illustrated. It is not only informative but also beautiful to leaf through. I'm glad I sent for it.

This book is a large coffee table type book that is absolutely lovely with beautiful pictures, very interesting - well written and covers most every subject a potter, ceramist, student of the clay, any type artist, would enjoy.

The product met and exceeded all expectations, as promised and was shipped as well as met all expectations.

I got this as a text for a college ceramics course, but it is far more than an ordinary text book. Not only is it informative on a variety of ceramic styles and techniques, but features lovely color illustrations of ceramics from a variety of times, places and artistic traditions. It is as much a coffee table book as a text.

The book had many pictures of finished products and a lot to read. I am visual and was thinking maybe it would show step by step pictures and how it is done. I have never used clay or done any sort of pottery, so it didn't really help me. I bought it for my class in college, but I never used it. Instead, I just got my hands dirty and learned by doing.

I received this book as a Christmas gift in 2003 from my boyfriend, as I had just started learning to throw forms back in September. I'm still taking classes and this is the best and most complete reference I've seen yet. I've purchased and looked at quite a number of books, but nothing else I've seen compares to this one. But I have a caution for the beginning potter; there is absolutely no substitute for studio experience and classes. My instructors told me right from the beginning, quite rightly, that the art of claymaking requires hours and hours of practice. No way around it. This book is not intended as a stand-alone reference. Perhaps it could be for the more experienced potter. But for a beginner such as myself, it is a great reinforcement for what I'm learning in class. It also gives

me great ideas on glazing, types of pots to throw, etc.. I need to work with my instructor on much of this, but I still find it extremely useful. The book expands on subjects that we don't really discuss in detail in class. It talks about things such as: what are glazes (composition and origin) and how does the chemical process work? What are the main glazing techniques? What are all the various types of clay and where do they come from? How does one choose a clay to work with? Since the art and history of clay making varies from culture to culture, a lot of different styles and techniques are included, making this a well-rounded book. Many parts of the book are very technical (a little intimidating to me) and are probably best suited for the 'master' clay artist. However, I still find it extremely useful. It's really the "Oxford Dictionary" of Claymaking. This book should definitely be a part of a serious claymaker's library (but not the only book!)

Susan Peterson was my advanced ceramics professor while I attended Hunter College (NYC) long ago. My little clay tile is in the books! We learned chemistry of clays/glazes and much more. For those wanting one of the best books on clay this is it... her husband as well was a ceramics engineer (if memory serves) so her information and background was on the cutting edge. As well she knew much of historical ceramics. For those who were doing work that needed an extensive understanding of properties of clay she was a unique and highly informative professor (I had been in clay for over 40 years, more if one counts my mud pies as a child) (and now I know what that mud means, one - if they have the knowledge can make one's own clay from knowing how to collect it along rivers so on). This we learned from Susan (along with firing techniques, many ideas which she again, added from her own knowledge to the base). One learns what "clay" is, how it is created by nature, and what one can do with it. She knows the historical background from around the world - as well as modern techniques, many of which she created, as well as founding ceramics divisions in many colleges. She could look at one's research end result (glaze or clay body) and know exactly what was needed to obtain the desired end result! (which chemicals) That meant if you had an idea in mind, you could create it! Highly recommend.

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