



The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook

By Susan Peterson, Jan Peterson

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Widely considered to be the most comprehensive introduction to ceramics available, this book contains numerous step-by-step illustrations of various ceramic techniques to guide the beginner as well as inspirational ceramic pieces from contemporary potters from around the world. For the more experienced ceramist, there is a wealth of technical detail on things like glaze formulas and temperature conversions which make the book an ideal reference. To quote one review: "...I am a studio potter and would not be without it." The fourth edition has been updated to include profiles of key ceramists who have influenced the field, new material on marketing ceramics including using the internet, more on the use of computers, added coverage of paperclays, using gold and alternative glazes.

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Bibliography

- Rank: #3717777 in Books
- Published on: 2003-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.98" h x 1.06" w x 8.54" l, 3.44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

The Craft and Art of Clay is the most comprehensive introduction to ceramics available. The book contains numerous step-by-step illustrations of all ceramic techniques to guide the beginner, as well as an inspirational portfolio of ceramic pieces from contemporary international potters. For the more experienced ceramist, there is a wealth of invaluable information on glaze formulas and other technical details, including temperature conversions, which make the book ideal as a reference.

NEW FEATURES OF THE FOURTH EDITION INCLUDE:

- **Trailblazers**—special profiles of key ceramists who have made significant contributions around the world. The seven artists featured are: Juan Quezada, Peter Voulkos, Luo Xiao-Ping, Toshiko Takaezu, Huey Beckham, Otto Heino, and Janet Mansfield.
- A new chapter on **Marketing and Computers**. The material on marketing in the last edition is expanded to provide more detail on how to sell your work successfully, including preparing it for display, approaching galleries, and finding venues for showing your pieces. New computer material includes technical aspects, from using computers to calculate glaze formulas and computerized firing, to useful programs and websites, and the creation of "virtual ceramics."
- New material on using **gold, alternative glazes, and paperclays**.
- 150 new **color illustrations**.
- A revised and clarified **Compendium** of technical information.

Invaluable features, such as safety icons to warn beginners of potential hazards, a concise history of ceramics and its traditions from prehistory to the present day, and an updated bibliography, glossary, list of museum collections, residencies and magazines, are retained in this new edition.

Susan Peterson's engaging writing style, deep knowledge, and boundless enthusiasm encourage creativity and engender an appreciation of the oldest of arts.

About the Author

Susan Peterson is Professor Emerita of Ceramics at Hunter College and is a practising ceramist whose work has been exhibited throughout the world. Her numerous books on ceramics include *Working with Clay*, *Contemporary Ceramics*, and *Jun Kaneko*. Jan Peterson is a high school and college ceramic teacher, ceramic artist and jeweller.

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I graduated from Alfred, New York State College of Ceramics, in the first Master of Fine Arts class after World War II, following an undergraduate degree in Painting (with Ceramics from F Canton Ball) at Mills College in California.

At mid-century we were heavily into pots and visions of design for industry that would bring "the greatest good to the greatest number." Functional and decorative pots were our business, although in the early 1900s artists such as George Ohr, Susie Singer, Adelaide Robineau, Wilhelm Koge of Gustavsberg, and George

Tinworth of Royal Doulton were among the first purveyors of Funk. Also early in the 20th century some famous painters such as Matisse, Gauguin, Renoir, Chagall, Leger, Miro, Picasso, Braque, Rouault and others were delving into clay, without making much of a dent in the potter's world. Years later we pay homage to their work.

The 1950s brought to the fore the Hamada/Leach/Cardew angle of vision, whose legacy it would take us to the 1970s to truly understand. Shoji Hamada (d.1978) and Bernard Leach (d. 1979), two of the most renowned potters who ever lived, founded the concept of studio pottery—Hamada in Japan, Leach and his follower Michael Cardew in England. Many of us were also drawn to the robust Rosanjin or the vibrant Kanjiro Kawai, Japanese masters who also encroached on our Western senses.

The Voulkos phenomenon, and the hundreds of international potmakers-turned-sculptors, followed from the 1960s on, Peter Voulkos, the central figure in a group of experimental artists, was responsible for a new vocabulary of clay that spread from the USA abroad. A few schools teaching ceramics in all parts of the world mushroomed into many schools in every corner of our planet.

Today workshops, community programs, alternative spaces, exhibitions, fairs, and the like, have caused an explosion in clayworking that seems to encompass the earth. Clay is everywhere and so are the artists. We are even beginning to care about the past millennia of ceramic art history, and we research to increase our knowledge. We have grown up and we are still growing.

And so this fourth edition of *The Craft and Art of Clay* has been revised and expanded again. Each time I think there cannot be more to say or more tests to run, but each edition is changed a lot and added to, with more photographs, more text, so I always find ways to expand. This edition has 22 Ferro Frits pictured and described, because Ferro is about the only frit manufacturer left in the world. The Pemco Frit photos are still here because many of us still have supplies.

The fusion button photographs of 34 basic ceramic materials fired at three temperatures, the glaze application 50/50 line blend tests of those 34 materials at cone 5 and 10, the feldspar photographs of bar tests at cone 5 and 10, the six pages of color tests of commercial glazes, the new line blend tests of glazes on iron-red and white clays at three temperatures and two atmospheres, and the many other visual tests of materials, are unprecedented visual aids that appear in no other ceramic book. Who but I would undertake all these tests! This pictorial information is invaluable for clay and glaze work.

The huge clay bar test of china clays, ball clays, stoneware clays, fire clays, and common surface clays at three temperatures in two atmospheres was made for the first edition of this book. While clays are generic and similar in their geological classification all over the world, the brand names change, the mines change. The next edition will include this test done anew with currently available mined materials.

The next edition will also need more new photographs in the Portfolio, and I need your help with that. Those of you in the book now should send new work, and help me find artists who are not in my file of 1,500 or more international clayworkers.

This book contains hundreds of photographs of work from artists around the world, which are likewise invaluable visual aids. My thanks to those of you who are included, as well as those whom space could not accommodate; please continue to keep your current work coming. I could not do without the support of the galleries which provide transparencies, nor of the magazines in our field, and of the collectors who not only help you but help me to know your work too. I am grateful that you keep in touch.

Thanks as always to my children and grandchildren, who lend unfailing support; my ceramist daughter Jan has been a staunch help with this edition and with the recent second edition of *Working with Clay*. She

teaches and gives hands-on advice with the use of these books in her classes. My assistants, Lucy Horner in the office, and K. C. O'Connell in the studio, who ran the new tests, give me constant aid. As well, I thank my long-time publisher, Laurence King, for his friendship and advice, and his staff in London: Lee Ripley Greenfield in the college division, who supervises the book with dignity and grace, and to whom I am indebted for the Trailblazer idea in this edition; Judy Rasmussen, whose keen eye sees that it is well printed; Elisabeth Ingles, who edits my words remarkably well, and Karen Stafford, who is the best book designer I have seen. Thanks are also due to Craig Smith, my excellent photographer; to Bud Therien at Prentice Hall for the college edition, and to Tracy Cairns at Overlook Press for the hard-cover edition. I can't do without any of you!

SUSAN PETERSON, CAREFREE, ARIZONA, APRIL 2003

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andre Rosier:

The book *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem using your subject. If you can make examining a book *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook* to become your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a book *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this book?

Dale Moore:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do this. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on guardería until university need this *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook* to read.

Betty Peoples:

This book untitled *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook* to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by using online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Diana Johnson:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook can be very good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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