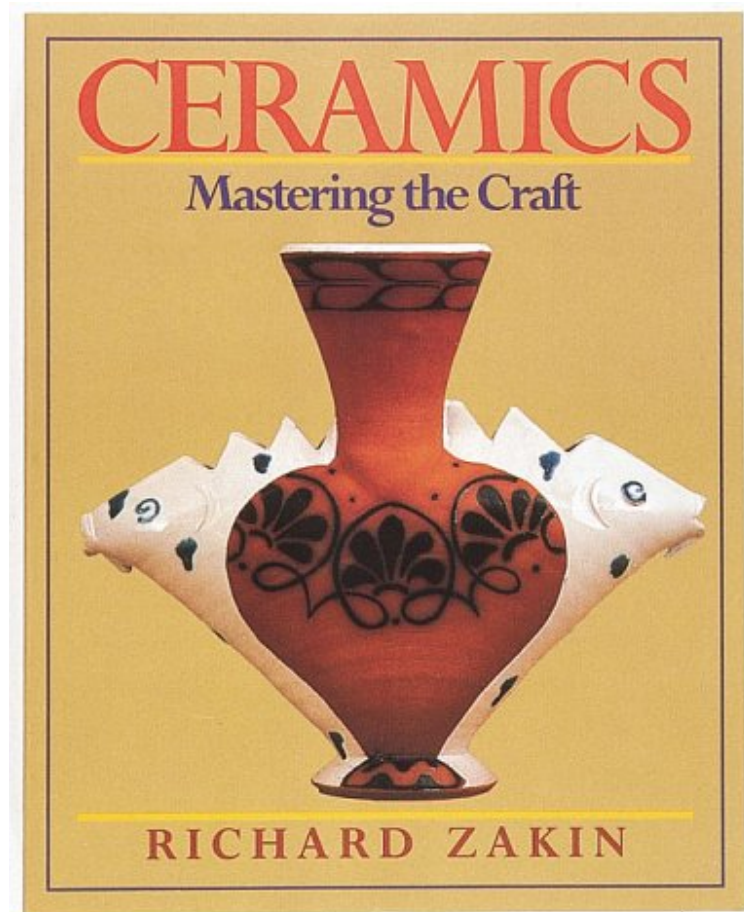


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## Ceramics: Mastering the Craft

*Richard Zakin*

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**Richard Zakin : Ceramics: Mastering the Craft** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ceramics: Mastering the Craft:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Betty Bakerlove it.32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Practicing the craft....By Dianne FosterGenerally, I collect ceramics, I don't make them anymore. I was never very adept with the potting wheel where my projects too often became lost in space, but I used to make very nice ceramics. In the process of dabbling with molds, slip and glaze I wondered about other aspects of the craft and over the years I have read and studied the subject informally. This wonderful book is a valuable resource whether you are starting out and want to experiment with different clay projects or want to refresh your memory.Zakin first explains the building blocks--ceramics-making materials (different combinations lead to different outcomes). He discusses types of clays, feldspars, frits, silica, and other modifying compounds. Ever notice when you hold a cup made from Kaolin (frequently called porcelain) filled with a hot fluid you don't burn your hand whereas the cute cup you bought at the local craft show made from a more porous clay does? Zakin provides a great deal of information

about the attributes of clay including plasticity, durability, color, maturity absorption, texture, resistance to warping, and intended use. If you're making a mug, a quiche pan, or a vase (or buying one), you may want to consider these aspects. Zakin provides the reader with much information about ceramic color, glazes, and mold-making (plenty of tips for success). I was fascinated with the sections discussing glaze making and testing, and kiln loading and firing including some nice photos of the raku process. Section 16 includes a succinct history of ceramics that covers various types generated over the ages (nicely illustrated and clearly written). The appendices of the book continue the in-depth exploration of the process of ceramics making including ways to analyze your results. This is an informative and well illustrated book containing many examples of ceramics made by the author and other artists working in his field. 27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Definitely one to have. By A Customer This book has a wonderful overview of ceramics for the studio potter. It has wealth of useful information for all skill levels and is one of the best reference books that I have in my collection. Top artists in the field are represented with lots of pictures and glaze recipes. Very well written and easy to understand.

A fascinating blend of the technical and aesthetic aspects of ceramics, this second edition features historical background information, analysis of image creation strategies, and numerous technical photos. Photo essays show such processes as raku, throwing on a wheel, slab construction, hand forming in a press mold, working with colored clay, creating a mold-formed vessel, and several others. Potters will find invaluable information on buying and formulating clays, creating form in clay, clay imagery, ceramic surfaces, choosing and applying glazes, firing clay bodies, analysis of glaze recipe types and kiln designs, and much more. Also included are dozens of clay body and glaze recipes. This greatly expanded and updated edition features more than 300 beautiful color photos of the most innovative work being done in the ceramics field today.

From Library Journal This new edition of Zakin's basic pottery book has been completely rewritten, with new color photographs replacing the mostly black-and-white photos of the first edition. To quote Val M. Cushing's foreword, "a very good book has become an even better book." Zakin, a veteran potter and teacher, discusses all types of fired ceramics, including tiles and architectural pieces. There are several good chapters on glazes and other surface treatments. The numerous photos illustrate techniques and finished work by other artists. An excellent book for potters at all levels, this belongs in academic as well as public library collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.