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The Pot Book



Synopsis

An A-Z history of ceramic art by one of the world's leading ceramic artists, Edmund de Waal. The history of ceramic art is ingrained in the history of mankind. Clay is one of the very first materials invented by man. An essential part of our lives it has been moulded, thrown, glazed, decorated and fired for over 30,000 years in order to preserve and transport food and water. And it was on the surface of these early jugs, vases, dishes, plates, beakers and amphorae that man placed some of his first decorative markings. In more recent times clay has been used not just by artisans and potters, but also by artists, designers and architects. The Pot Book is the first publication to document the extraordinary range and variety of ceramic vessels of all periods, from a delicate bowl made by an unnamed artisan in China in the third millennium bc, or a jug made in eighteenth-century Dresden, to a plate made by Picasso in 1952, a spade form made by Hans Coper or the vases of Grayson Perry today. Each entry is sequenced in alphabetical order by the name of the artist/potter, the school, or style, creating a grand tour through the very finest examples of the art form.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"sumptuous... a gorgeous tribute to the history of ceramics. If you think you don't care about pots, this book will change your mind." •The Times Saturday "a wonderful new book... by the presiding genius of modern studio ceramics, Edmund de Waal... informative" •Royal Academy magazine "handsomely illustrated... This book is like an installation where the

arrangement of illustrations makes the reader look with surprised attentiveness" – V&A Magazine "This is a distinctly personal, even quirky selection - which is part of its appeal." – Bloomberg News

Edmund de Waal apprenticed as a potter in Canterbury, before studying in Japan and Cambridge. Today his porcelain is in thirty international museum collections: most recently he has created major installations for the V&A and Tate Britain. He is working on exhibitions for museums in the UK and America and on commissions for private clients. Edmund has also written widely on art and ceramics. In June 2010 his *The Hare with Amber Eyes* was published by Chatto and Windus, winning the Costa Biography Award and New Writer of the Year at the Galaxy Book Awards. Edmund has also written widely on art and ceramics and his titles include *20th Century Ceramics*, *Timeless Beauty: Traditional Japanese Art from the Jeffrey Montgomery Collection*, *Bernard Leach* and *New Ceramic Design*.

This is an exceptional book. Each pot is illustrated with a full-page color photograph of high quality in this large format book; the photographs seem to have been taken especially for this publication. The captions below the photographs qualify as short essays dealing with, possibly, the artist, a tradition, art history, or an aspect of the technique involved in making the specific pot. These captions are highly stimulating and make the book far more than just a picture book of carefully selected clay pots from diverse traditions in time and space. I come away from *The Pot Book*, each time I look through it, with a keen sense of Edmund de Waal's polymorphic sensibility. Claudia Clare, with whom the book was co-written and co-edited, should be noted for her contributions. The present location of each pot is not listed with its illustration, but consigned to a dense page of picture credits on the next to last page of the book. A poor decision in an otherwise excellent treatment of clay works.

I chose this book as I really like picture books for starters, but I like the way it was photographed and narrated and covered many styles and era's. Lots of really interesting facts but not too lengthy in its description. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested not only in ceramics, pottery or history, as it's just a lovely record of how gifted some people are.

This is a very beautiful book that will open your eyes to ceramics, both contemporary and historic.

A wonderful collection of pottery that has broadened my interest and joy in the world of ceramics.

Nice short essays on the pot of the day format.

De Waal has selected the most beautiful and meaningful Ceramic pieces. Wonderful photos and beautifully written. For those who interested in studying Ceramic Art deeply.

Poetry. Great info. A tremendous read

Very cool book, Beautiful colorful pages, incredible diversity

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