



The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery

By Mark Hewitt, Nancy Sweezy



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Classic North Carolina stoneware pots--with their rich textures, monochromatic glazes, and minimal decoration--belong to one of America's most revered stoneware pottery traditions. In a lavishly illustrated celebration of that tradition, Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy trace the history of North Carolina pottery from the nineteenth century to the present day. They demonstrate the intriguing historic and aesthetic relationships that link pots produced in North Carolina to pottery traditions in Europe and Asia, in New England, and in the neighboring state of South Carolina.

With hundreds of color photographs highlighting the shapes and surfaces of carefully selected pots, *The Potter's Eye* honors the keen focus vernacular potters bring to their materials, tools, techniques, and history. It is an evocative guide for anyone interested in the art of North Carolina pottery and the aesthetic majesty of this resilient and long-standing tradition.

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Editorial Review

Review

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"This exciting work succeeds in its mission to 'signal and celebrate the artistry of North Carolina's greatest production potters, ' but this work has accomplished much more--it has challenged and tutored scholars and collectors to view the stoneware of North Carolina with a "potter's eye"."
-- "Journal of Folklore Research"

Review

Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy's *The Potter's Eye* is a lavish tour of 19th-century North Carolina stoneware, with both historical comparisons and contemporary work based in the tradition. . . . It is the quality and breadth of Mark Hewitt's eye--how he has assembled and illuminated these great old pots--that makes *The Potter's Eye* an essential book for anyone who cares about the history of clay. The vitality of the work of the contemporary potters, and Nancy Sweezy's expert capturing of their voices, make it equally valuable for readers interested in the synthesis of tradition by craftspeople today.--*American Craft*

More than an exhibition catalog; it is a collaborative work of art.--*Western Folklore*

Exquisitely illustrated. . . . [with] incredibly detailed surface shots.--*Ceramics Monthly*

[Hewitt's] critical evaluation eloquently makes a link between the very old and the new and in doing so rejuvenates our 'eye' and inspires us to view the work of the North Carolina stoneware tradition in a new light. . . . Hewitt introduces the reader to a new vocabulary of expression and technical insight, a grounding which well prepares and informs our senses for the Nancy Sweezy interviews with six contemporary North Carolina potters who continue to turn and burn. . . . The many powerful, full page, color photographs of the exhibits taken by Jason Dowdle . . . immediately grasp our attention.--*The Log Book*

I have great respect for Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy. I deeply appreciate what they are doing, and that their writing is based on wide personal experience, profound insight, and wisdom.--Gerry Williams, Studio Potter Organization

Perry and her coterie of authors provide expert introductions to the state's pottery as a whole and to the significant benchmarks of its cultural history. . . . Jason Dowdle created special photography for *The Potter's Eye* that examines the form and surfaces of each pot in ways not previously expressed in books on ceramics history. This volume is worth owning for its visual beauty alone.--*Winterthur Portfolio*

Returning to the roots of the North Carolina tradition, *The Potter's Eye* focuses on the 'classic' pots from nineteenth-century and contemporary potters, adding intriguing historical and aesthetic comparisons to work from Asia, the northeastern United States, and South Carolina. The grouping of pots is original and well thought out. Hewitt develops several themes with particular energy--the use of local materials and wood firing, the influence of Asia, and the power of tradition--all of which are crystallized in Sweezy's superb interviews with the potters themselves.--Charles G. Zug III, author of *Turners and Burners: The Folk Potters of North Carolina*

A handsome heavy book, thanks largely to Jason Dowdle's gorgeous photographs. . . . The writing is poetic, persuasive, and at times, almost polemical.--*North Carolina Historical Review*

This exciting work succeeds in its mission to 'signal and celebrate the artistry of North Carolina's greatest production potters,' but this work has accomplished much more--it has challenged and tutored scholars and collectors to view the stoneware of North Carolina with a *potter's eye*.--*Journal of Folklore Research*

A lavishly illustrated celebration of [the stoneware pottery] tradition. . . . *The Potter's Eye* honors the keen focus vernacular potters bring to their materials, tools, techniques, and history. It is an evocative guide for anyone interested in the art of North Carolina pottery and the aesthetic majesty of this resilient and long-standing tradition.--*New England Antiques Journal*

[Hewitt and Sweezy] are just nutty about North Carolina stoneware: salt- and alkaline-glazed surfaces, poetic shapes, regional clays, Asian influences. [In *The Potter's Eye*] the language of pottery is a language of love: pots are 'taut-bellied' and 'pregnant,' 'blistered' and 'scarred.' . . . The sensual prose makes it enjoyable and informative. . . . *The Potter's Eye* does what any good tour guide should do: gently compels you to look and look again, focusing on the nifty details.--*Oxford American*

From the Inside Flap

In celebration of the way traditional North Carolina potters look at shape, color, and decoration, this volume honors the keen focus that these potters bring to their materials, tools, techniques, and history. It examines the genesis of NC's stoneware pottery tradition, traces its evolution in the nineteenth century, and looks at its ongoing expression by contemporary artists. Includes interviews with six contemporary NC potters as well as hundreds of breathtaking color photographs that pay close attention to the shapes and surfaces of pots.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Froelich:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

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Dwight Ivers:

The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into joy arrangement in writing The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Sonia Cote:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that question was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you know that little person such as reading or as studying become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update regarding something by book. Different categories of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery.

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