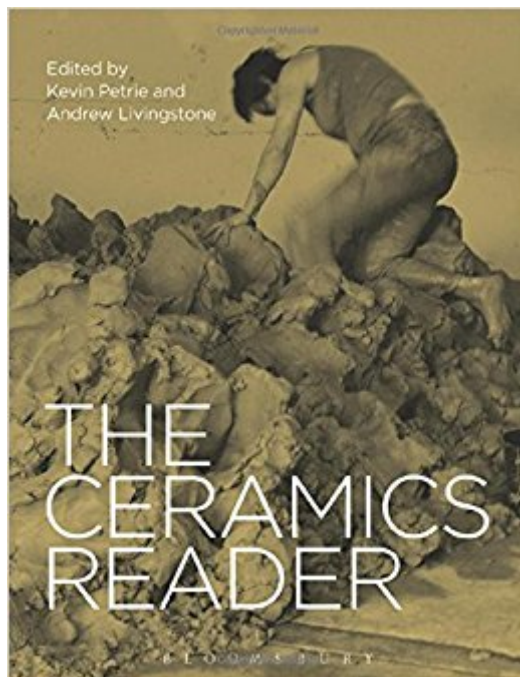


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The Ceramics Reader



Synopsis

The Ceramics Reader is an impressive collection of essays and text extracts which covers all the key areas of ceramics – both past and present. It focuses on thoughts and discussions within ceramics from the last 20-30 years in particular, but also gives the reader a broad overview of the last 100 years. One aim of the book is to introduce contemporary debates, raise awareness and stimulate thought rather than to present a closed case for examination. Consequently the essays or extracts present different approaches to give a rounded viewpoint. Beginning with essential questions such as 'Why are ceramics important?' it also considers the field of ceramics from a range of perspectives – as a cultural activity, ceramics as metaphor, where it sits within arts and crafts, within gender discussions, ceramics as sculpture, the use of ceramics as a vehicle for propaganda, ceramics within industry, within museums, and most recently as part of the 'expanded field' as a Fine Art medium and vehicle for ideas. The texts come from a wide variety of sources – books, magazines, journals, papers presented at conferences and online journals, as well as some newly commissioned material never before published, to present an international and comprehensive look at ceramics. The book is divided into three main sections and each has a short introduction by the editors to place the chosen texts in context and explain the selections, as well as pointing to any strong threads or issues within the section and offering a point of view. This book is ideal for ceramic students, but will also appeal to anyone wishing to gain a broad overview and understanding of the world of ceramics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Ceramics Reader is a triumph. I do not doubt that it will be recognised as the most influential ceramics title of our decade. * Crafts * This book is absolutely recommended, and fortunately it is fitted with an index so it can also be used as a reference work. * Keramiske noter (Bloomsbury translation) * The Ceramics Reader is part seed bank, bedrock, reagent, and compass. Livingstone and Petrie have assembled an invaluable reference that so elegantly represents and agitates both historic and contemporary discourse in the field of Ceramic Art * Brian Gillis, Associate Professor of Art at the University of Oregon, USA * Bringing together a rich collection of critical texts, from ceramic luminaries such as Philip Rawson and Garth Clark to the provocative writing of a younger generation of practitioners, The Ceramic Reader is the book we have been waiting for. * Stephen Dixon, Crafts Research Group Leader at Manchester School of Art, UK * The persistent echo of the art / craft debate and a long dismissal of ceramics as fine art has caused an identity crisis. This is a remarkably full and timely account to start a dialogue of inclusion and diversity in the art world. * Salvador Jimenez-Flores, Artist in Residence at the Ceramics Program Office at Harvard University, USA * An inspirational book that brings together informative and thought provoking texts that explore ceramics from different perspectives and viewpoints. Invaluable for research, it will make a significant contribution to the discourse, encouraging dialogue and debate between students and academics alike. * Felicity Aylieff, Head of the Ceramics and Glass programme at the Royal College of Art, UK *

Andrew Livingstone is Reader in Ceramics at the University of Sunderland, UK. Kevin Petrie is Head of Glass and Ceramics at the University of Sunderland, UK.

Many of these essays have been presented at a conference, where a Powerpoint Presentation accompanied it. Transcribed here verbatim, they lack the images which the artists, scholars and critics make their cases. This results in almost meaningless examples where the speaker relies on the ability of their audience to see their examples. This is the weakest component of an otherwise wide ranging collection of essays.

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