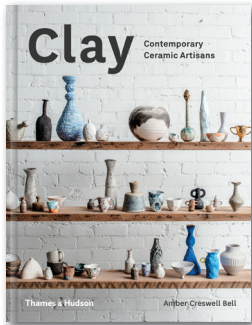


# Selected reads

Our pick of the crop of new ceramic-based works



## CHAMPIONING THE BEST OF HANDMADE

'In a similar vein to the Arts and Craft movement emerging as a response to the Industrial Revolution in the 1860s, we are now answering the current "Digital Revolution" with a hunger for the authentic.' This is author Amber Creswell Bell in her introduction to her new title *Clay: Contemporary Ceramic*

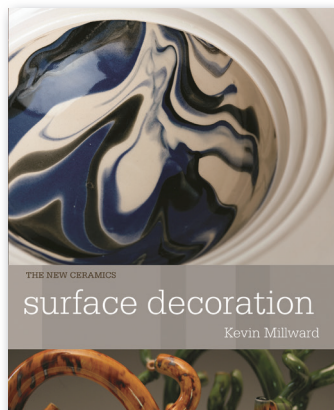
*Artisans*. A curator and an arts, design and lifestyle writer, Creswell explores the current appetite for the handmade – specifically ceramics – in this book, highlighting the 'diverse cross-section of styles, experiences, geography and personality of the artists' (some 53), that she has chosen to feature. Among those are Ashraf Hanna, Brigitte Colleaux, Akiko Hirai Collingwood, Derek Wilson and Jono Smart. Featured, too, are emerging makers, such as Florian Gadsby. With high quality photography and a foreword by Keith Brymer Jones, this is a beautiful book to dip into, whether you are a maker or collector.

**TITLE:** *Clay: Contemporary Ceramic Artisans*

**AUTHOR:** Amber Creswell Bell

**PUBLISHER:** Thames & Hudson

**PRICE:** £25



## DRAWN TO DECORATE?

A studio potter for forty years and a respected lecturer, Kevin Millward is also a lead technical advisor on the BBC's *The Great Pottery Throw Down*. Now his latest venture is a new book dedicated to surface decoration. A step-by-step guide, it leads readers through a full range of surface treatments, advising on

appropriate finish choices. Informed by history, yet with a contemporary steer, this work is highly practical, clear and concise, covering everything from slip decorating to sprigging, stamping, sponging, maiolica and majolica. Written, in the main, from personal experience, Millward has either used the method himself, or worked closely with a potter who has. Complete with a glossary of terms for students, this comprehensive book is for any ceramist – even the hardened minimalist – keen to explore a decoration technique from which, perhaps, they've shied away before.

**TITLE:** *Surface Decoration*

**AUTHOR:** Kevin Millward

**PUBLISHER:** Bloomsbury Academic

**PRICE:** £19.99

Words: Sue Herdman

## PIONEER FIGURES

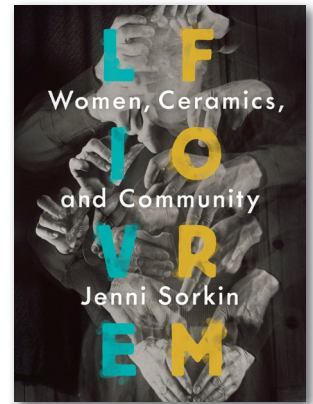
From Jenni Sorkin, Assistant Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at the University of California, comes a new title that delves into the topic of women, ceramics and community in the second part of the 20th century. Described by its author as a 'thematic and gendered history of post-war American ceramics', *Live Form* focuses on three American figures, women who had a key role in popularising ceramics in the USA. Each, she says, 'utilized [sic] the art form as a conduit for social contact'. The first, Marguerite Wildenhain (1896–1985), was a Bauhaus-trained potter and writer who 'taught form as process without product'. The second, Susan Peterson (1925–2009), is remembered for her exciting live throwing demonstrations on television; and the third, Mary Caroline (MC) Richards (1916–1999), pursued fresh formative methods. All three were pioneers, says Sorkin, who 'set the stage for later participatory forms of art and feminist collectivism.'

**TITLE:** *Live Form: Women, Ceramics, and Community*

**AUTHOR:** Jenni Sorkin

**PUBLISHER:** The University of Chicago Press

**PRICE:** £31.50



## COLOUR AND VERVE

Full of bright hues, beautifully crafted and occasionally bawdy, the maiolica of Renaissance Italy provides the 21st-century observer with a rich glimpse of the culture and ways of that society. This new publication takes that maiolica – specifically that of the world-class collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art – as its focus. Featuring 135 pieces, from pharmacy jars to *bella donna* plates, each piece has been photographed especially for this book and is illustrated along with its provenance, history, condition report and notes on form and glaze. A wide-ranging introduction is provided by Luke Syson, Chairman of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the Museum. Timothy Wilson, Professor of the Arts of the Renaissance at the University of Oxford, and a foremost scholar in the field, gives an overview of the history and techniques. This is a scholarly production, but one with an accessible – and highly visual – route into the subject.

**TITLE:** *Maiolica: Italian Renaissance Ceramics*

**AUTHOR:** Timothy Wilson, with an essay by Luke Syson

**PUBLISHER:** Yale University Press

**PRICE:** £50

