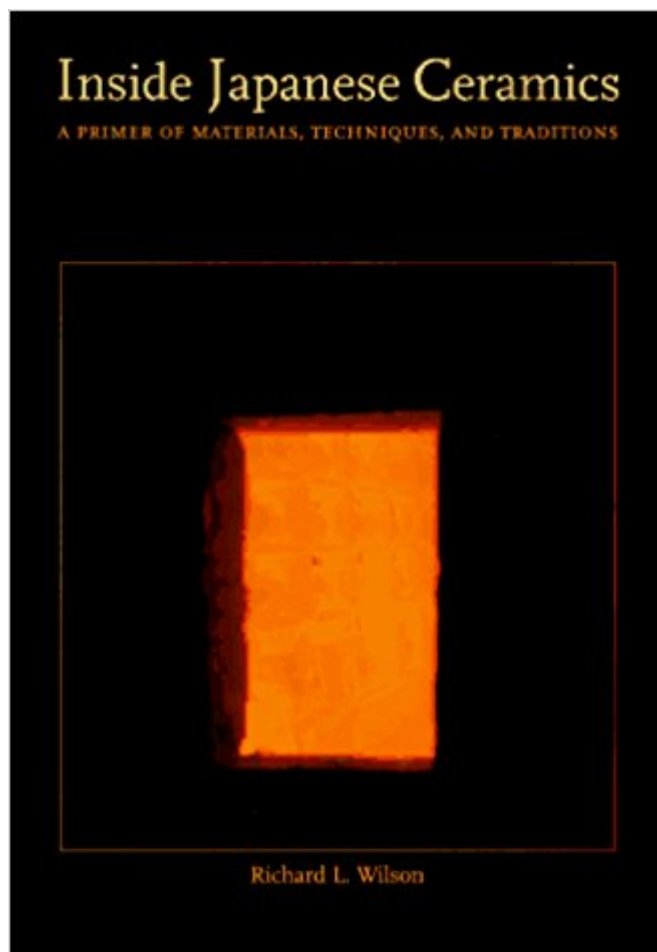


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Inside Japanese Ceramics: Primer Of Materials, Techniques And Traditions



Synopsis

This practical and supremely useful manual is the first comprehensive, hands-on introduction to Japanese ceramics. The Japanese ceramics tradition is without compare in its technical and stylistic diversity, its expressive content, and the level of appreciation it enjoys, both in Japan and around the world. *Inside Japanese Ceramics* focuses on tools, materials, and procedures, and how all of these have influenced the way traditional Japanese ceramics look and feel. A true primer, it concentrates on the basics: setting up a workshop, pot-forming techniques, decoration, glazes, and kilns and firing. It introduces the major methods and styles that are taught in most Japanese workshops, including several representative and well-known wares: Bizen, Mino, Karatsu, Hagi, and Kyoto. While presenting the time-tested techniques of the tradition, author Richard L. Wilson also accommodates modern technologies and materials as appropriate. Wilson has gathered a wealth of information on two fronts— as a researcher of Japanese pottery and art history, and as a potter who has studied and worked for years with master Japanese potters. In his introduction, he provides a short history of Japanese ceramics, and in closing he looks beyond traditional methods toward ways in which Western potters can make Japanese methods their own. Richly illustrated with 24 color plates, over 100 black-and-white photographs, and over 70 instructive line-drawings, *Inside Japanese Ceramics* is indispensable for potters as well as connoisseurs and collectors of Japanese ceramics. Above all, it is an invitation to participate—to study, make, touch, and use the exquisite products of the Japanese ceramic tradition. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Art students will appreciate this first hands-on introduction to Japanese ceramics traditions and production. This presents the basics, from setting up a workshop and forming pots to understanding both the techniques of and philosophy behind modern Japanese ceramics approaches. Plenty of step-by-step black and white photos do a fine job of imparting techniques. -- Midwest Book Review

Richard L. Wilson is a professor of Art History at Rice University and a leading authority on Japanese ceramics history and technique, as well as an active potter. He has published widely in both English and Japanese, including *The Art of Ogata Kenzan*, and is currently working on a history of Japanese ceramics. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Everything I could want. History, techniques, tools, glazes, decorating. Beautiful pictures (though I could wish for more color pictures, but that's pretty much par for the course for low distribution subjects like ceramics).

Although a textbook for ceramist, it is a stimulating reading for people with a general interest in ceramics. I found the book fascinating. The book provides an introduction to the techniques of Japanese wood fired ceramics, its history and context. The book has plenty of well chosen illustrations along with the well thought out, enjoyable writing.

Excellent and it arrived early too.

Ver nice!

Though I have to admit that the title of the book is validly announcing its content, the book itself was not what I expected. Through the reviews I read, I thought I would find more photos with examples of Japanese ceramics; actual artistic expressions that identify and illustrate it. In my view, there are plenty of descriptions of step by step techniques that are common to all potters worldwide: sgraffito, carving, slipping, wheelthrowing, etc. I have PLENTY of those POTTER'S COMPANION books already. UNFORTUNATELY, this book does not have a LOOK INSIDE option, otherwise, I would not have chosen it.

This volume presents not only the "how-to" of Japanese ceramics, but broader considerations of their significance within the context of world ceramics. Richard Wilson has not only trained

extensively with Japanese potters, but is also thoroughly familiar with the many historical ceramic types which form the tradition which continues today. Virtually no art potters today remain unaffected by the tremendous impact of Japanese ceramics, and Wilson's book provides the contemporary ceramist with a reference that is at once useful and inspiring. The text is clear and straightforward in the explanatory sections while at the same time conveying to the reader the fascinating historical and cultural context on which the many techniques are based. The color illustrations are first class, and the technical photographs, illustrations and diagrams are clear, easy to read and appropriately placed. As in his earlier volume, *The Art of Ogata Kenzan*, Wilson has taken great pains to ensure that his information is both accurate and as complete as possible. Eschewing past tendencies of Western ceramists to mainly focus either on the externals of Japanese pots or on a touchy-feely, pseudo-philosophical/religious approach, Wilson sees the essence of Japanese ceramics as intrinsically linked to production process and functionality. As he summarizes, "(The Japanese ceramics legacy) suggests... renouncing artistic individualism... and rededicating oneself to personal discipline and harmony with materials, processes, and the user community. It implies thinking about the pots as part of an ongoing process, a relaxed conversation with the world, rather than as a kind of personal decree." Through this book, Richard Wilson has provided a great volume of reference not only for those who "do" ceramics, but for those who love ceramics as well.

If you're interested in Japanese ceramics, traditional historical glazes and firing methods this is a **MUST HAVE** book. If you're a serious potter, building a charcoal kiln could change the direction of your work!

I am a pottery instructor and over the years continually have Japanese students. Japanese pottery is always as Function as it is Decorative. This book is a wonderful tool in helping me to explain techniques to my students. (Especially when they don't speak much English) As the old saying goes a picture is worth a thousand words. The step by step pictorial instructions are so helpful. If you are interested in Japanese pottery this is a must have book.

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