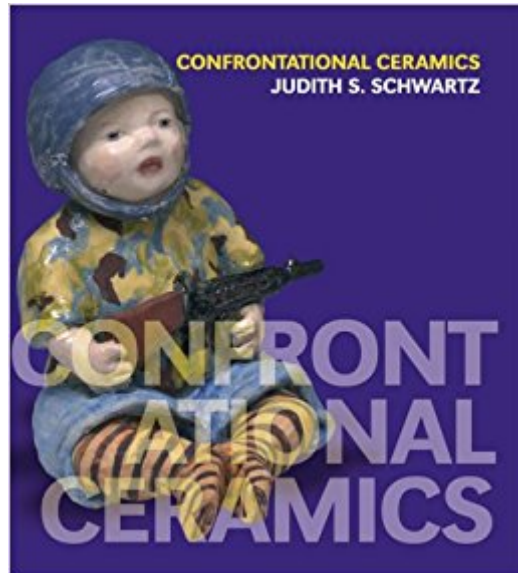




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Confrontational Ceramics



Synopsis

Those who associate ceramics with functional vessels or charming knick-knacks are in for a shock. Clay may start out soft, but in the right hands it can deliver a hard blow. From British Toby Jugs to Marcel Duchamp's Fountain to a wall of gruesome tiles that forms a portrait of President George W. Bush, ceramic art has the power to provoke and subvert. *Confrontational Ceramics* surveys the work of contemporary sculptors, potters, and mixed media artists who have turned the ancient medium of clay into an articulate vehicle for political and social commentary. Educator and curator Judith S. Schwartz gathers the works of more than two hundred artists from thirty different countries into a glossy full-color overview of the radical ceramics scene. Provocative pieces from makers such as Grayson Perry, Robert Arneson, Richard Notkin, Howard Kottler, as well as newer talents, address personal, social, and geopolitical injustices from rape to racism. In their own words, these bold artists discuss the outrage behind their outrageous works. Schwartz provides historical context for current and late twentieth-century protest in the form of ceramics. She also places the artists within thematic groupings: war and politics, the social and human condition, gender issues, the environment, and popular and material culture. Filled with subtle satire, garish jests, grotesque shock treatments, and moving testaments, *Confrontational Ceramics* is a radical departure from conventional coffee-table ceramics books on decorative housewares or formal abstractions. This art book will amuse, inspire, and possibly offend art historians, ceramics collectors, and anyone with an eye for the outlandish.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Judith S. Schwartz is Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Art Professions at New York University.

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Disappointing, both in scope and commentary

Confrontational Ceramics takes an unexpected and creative stands by various artists to political and social predicaments. I don't believe that these art works are meant to be cute. They are unique in using ceramic art to express a point of view. It's a rather large book and the illustrations are first class.

Confrontational Ceramics: The Artist as Social Critic [CONFRONTATIONAL CERAMICS]
[Hardcover]Book looks at how ceramic artist are using the media to make provocative commentaries about the inequities of the human condition.Confrontational Ceramics is not for the closed minded.

Unusual, thought-provoking ceramics. This book is well written, and it is filled with wonderful photographs. I would highly recommend it to my artist friends.

This book has important information and examples of work for many high profile ceramic artists examining political and societal issues. I am glad to have this resourcde available for student use.

Who would have thought there are so socio-political artists working in ceramics? Judy Schwartz has created a stunning and informative book. In the West, ceramics has long been pigeonholed as craft, and not a serious art form. This book goes a long ways in educating the viewer on the potential of clay. It is an honor to be included in Confrontational Ceramics.Julie GreenAssociate ProfessorDepartment of Art at Oregon State University[...]

I am a full time ceramic artist and I love this book!.I recommend it because it brings Ceramics into the Fine Art world and away from the craft sector.I have never been a potter and although I have much appreciation of the skill and years of experience required, it is annoying that people

automatically think of pottery and craft when they hear that clay is your medium. This book is not only extremely interesting and inspirational, the description beside each work gives new ceramicists an opportunity to see how to write about their work, and even more importantly how to think outside the square. Sincerely Rebecca Shawyer

We always knew writing, painting, drawing, and photography were powerful agents of social comment---but ceramics? Well, yes ... and the use of ceramic art as a means of provocative social and political comment goes back a lot farther than most people might think. Judith Schwartz has assembled an astonishing array of challenging, moving, and forceful pieces of ceramic art, intelligently arranged and superbly photographed. Paging through this book will change the way you look at ceramics specifically and art in general. A powerful and eye-opening collection, worth the attention of anyone who claims to care about art.

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