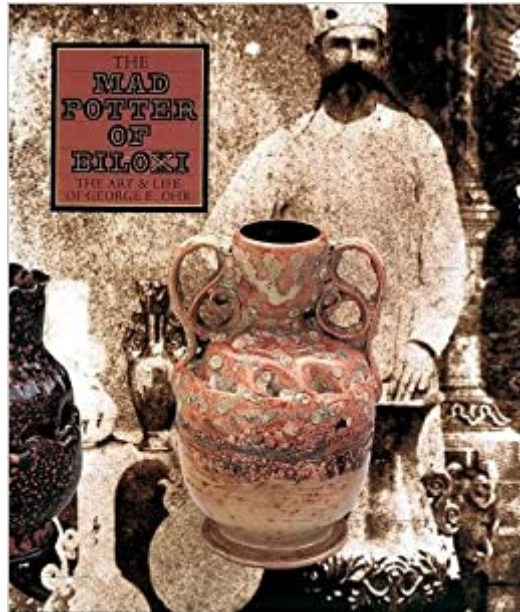


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# The Mad Potter Of Biloxi: The Art And Life Of George E. Ohr



## Synopsis

Misunderstood and unappreciated during his lifetime (1857-1918), George Ohr, America's archetypal artist-potter, pushed the form of the vessel beyond mere function to the point of abstraction. Today the genius of this radical and sophisticated artist has finally been recognized. His thin-walled, paper-light pots, labeled grotesque in his day, are now seen as a tour de force of delicacy and restraint and a stunning exploration of the plasticity of clay. Ruffling, twisting, tearing, and collapsing his fragile pots, Ohr anticipated much of what we take for granted in contemporary art and ceramics. Stunningly illustrated with 140 color images of his most important pieces, this landmark volume, winner of the George Wittenborn Award for outstanding art books from the Art Libraries Society of North America, presents the first major study of Ohr. Beautifully woven together, the text and images confirm a judgment the Mad Potter once passed on himself: "Unequaled! Unrivaled! Undisputed!" he wrote on a sign outside his shop, "Greatest Art Potter on Earth!"

## Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Abbeville Press (October 13, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0896599272

ISBN-13: 978-0896599277

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 1.1 x 12.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #802,080 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Pottery & Ceramics #327 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Pottery & Ceramics #4933 in Books > Arts & Photography > Individual Artists

## Customer Reviews

The self-styled "Biloxi Mud Dauber," Mississippi art potter Ohr (1857-1918) produced thousands of ceramic pieces that were out of step with their time. Detractors have called them bizarre, crude, even ugly, but his supporters saw Ohr as an eccentric genius, a romantic who staked unexplored aesthetic territory with unprecedented shapes and idiosyncratic glazes, and created a polychromatic spectrum of works. A picaresque rebel with flashing eyes and a long white beard, Ohr deemed these pots his "mud babies." Scores of them are on display in this monograph illustrated with 140

color and 100 black-and-white photos. Clark wrote *American Ceramics*, Ellison is a founder of the American Ceramic Arts Society and Hecht is an editor of *Arts and Crafts Quarterly*. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Garth Clark, a widely published critic and historian of ceramics, is the founding director of the Institute for Ceramic History and the author of *Abbeville's American Ceramics: 1976 to the Present* and *The Eccentric Teapot*. Robert A. Ellison, Jr., an artist and author, is a founding member of the American Ceramic Arts Society and has lectured on Ohr. Eugene Hecht is a widely published authority on Ohr and American art pottery and a founding member of the American Ceramic Arts Society. John White is a photographer based in New York whose work ranges from fine art and design to advertising.

This is a Christmas present I gave to my brother. He has been working with ceramics for 40 years. He loves this book, says it inspired him to experiment with new techniques, glazes and mixtures of clay. His specialty is making ceramic wind chimes, but he also makes custom tiles, bowls, planters and some figures. You can see some examples of his items for sale and find contact information at <http://home.comcast.net/~fjkoontz/pottery/Portfolio15.pdf>

I am always looking for a copy of this book to give to my pottery friends. This copy was fabulous! Almost like new! Thank you!

Excellent review of George Ohr's life's work (the pictures alone made the book a real find).

The book shows an excellent selection of George Ohr's unusual work. It tells a good bit about his life as well. Any potter wanting a good glimpse at Ohr's work before going to the museum in Biloxi should start here! He is definitely a "one of a kind" potter!

An excellent book. This was very complete and well written. George Ohr was an interesting guy and I liked the detail attributed to his work. It did leave some questions for me about the originality/counterfeiting aspect. How do you tell? Who would know?

Great book and great service A+++++

This is a wonderful book, so well written and promptly delivered. Many thanks and keep alive the memory of George Ohr

Very nice book, lots of information. I gave this for a Christmas present and the recipient was very happy with it.

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