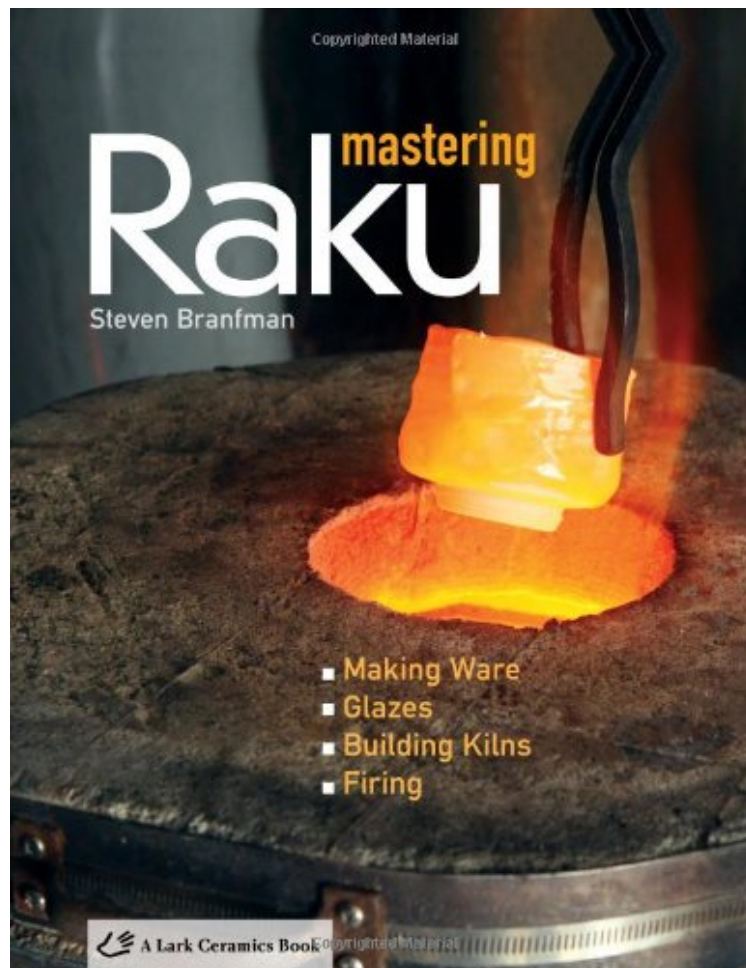


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Steven Branfman

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Steven Branfman : Mastering Raku: Making Ware * Glazes * Building Kilns * Firing (A Lark Ceramics Book)
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mastering Raku:
Making Ware * Glazes * Building Kilns * Firing (A Lark Ceramics Book):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Best Guide to Raku By Andrew This is the best Raku book I've read so far. Mr. Branfman offers a lot of very thoughtful experience in this practical guide. I appreciated the many tips on how to prevent problems and also appreciated the safety aspect of the art. The book is well-illustrated. He very clearly articulates ways to get a more even firing and prevent thermal shock during heating. He also acknowledges that Raku can be as much an individual project as it is a group event. Saggar firing and smoking were very clearly outlined. Don't expect a lot of depth on fuming, which is probably best left to classroom instruction anyway given the hazards

involved. Overall, this book is a model for how to write about ceramic arts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I don't know that you can find a better book on the topic of Raku. By rprmI don't know that you can find a better book on the topic of Raku. Steven Branfman clearly explains the process and trouble shoots things that could happen, with tips from his own experiences. The photos are lovely and the book is well laid out and easy to read. Can't recommend this book enough!! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very ComprehensiveBy Clay WalthallI use this book as a text for my college level raku class. Branfman does a great job explaining the many aspects of the raku process. His discussion of various kiln types is particularly useful for anyone experimenting with kiln design.

From firing to finishing, this is the definitive reference on raku. Ceramists will be informed and inspired by this newly updated, technique-based book with how-to photos and text. It covers such topics as types of clay, forming techniques, firing, glazes, decoration, and kilns and kiln construction. Mastering Raku also includes a gallery of works from around the world along with updated clay and glaze recipes.

"Mastering Raku is a hands-on, technique-based guide to making the type of ceramic ware that has come to be known as raku in the West. ... The (first) few chapters of the book guide those who are new to raku through the process. ... For readers with some experience in basic raku firing, Branfman offers chapters on advanced firing techniques, related techniques for use with raku (including slip resist and horsehair raku), and teaching raku in school, workshop, and group firing situations. Where appropriate, these chapters also have photographs that help explain the step-by-step processes. Over 50 artists' works are featured in the book ... a gallery of contemporary raku-fired work by different artists working in both sculptural and vessel oriented traditions is included at the end of the book, while numerous images of both contemporary and historical work can be found in each chapter. There are appendices with clay and glaze recipes, including simple frit and colorant oxide combinations for fuming and a variety of slip recipes for use with naked raku techniques." - Ceramics Monthly