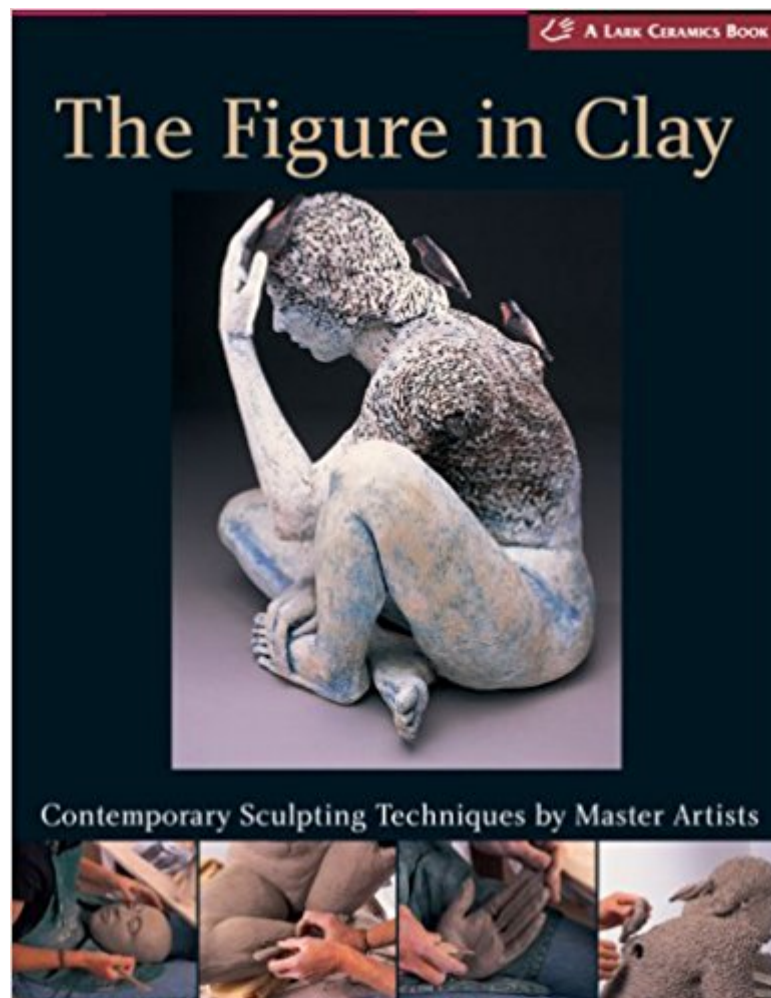




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# The Figure In Clay: Contemporary Sculpting Techniques By Master Artists (A Lark Ceramics Book)



## Synopsis

Nine master ceramic artists present their personal approaches to sculpting the human figure in a spectacular volume that's both technically illuminating and visually inspirational. The outstanding examples range from representational to abstract, diminutive to heroic. Nan Smith uses a range of mold-making techniques and precise slab construction, while Akio Takamori coil-builds a simplified figure inspired by a Velázquez painting and Christyl Boger creates a lavishly decorated, classically formal figurine. Each featured sculptor discusses the unique attractions and challenges of his or her method, and a series of detailed color photographs follows the artwork as it takes shape. In addition, there's a gallery of contemporary pieces selected by the major contributors. Glen R. Brown, a noted writer on ceramics, provides an insightful, thought-provoking introduction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nine artists who focus on the figure and use clay, an ancient medium, share their visions and techniques. Glen R. Brown's introductory essay orients readers to sculptors unbound by academia or cultural tradition in their approach to figurative representation. Adrian Arleo presents a life-size, coil-built figure, and in her essay explains her use of pencil sketches as sources for initial ideas, then details her concern with suggesting the inner or spiritual being via external rendering of the human form. Crystal Boger explains that although her narrative figures seem traditional at first glance, they actually embody the angst of contemporary culture. Mark Burns draws on pop culture to achieve affectionate nods to arts of the past, including the work of Rene Magritte and novelty

lamps of the 1930s. Following each artist's amply illustrated essays are equally well-illustrated step-by-step descriptions of the techniques used. In all, this book provides rare insights into both the conceptual and practical concerns of artists working in clay. Whitney Scott  
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really great pictures

Fantastic book! What a joy! I agree with some of the other reviews that this is perhaps, not a book for novice sculptors. However, if you are working in clay; already been creating sculptures; and are looking for a way to increase the size of your work, this is the book for you. It will be a timeless treasure for me. Just seeing how other sculptors are currently working gets my juices flowing. Pay particular attention to the "gallery" at the end of each section. After being blown away by the featured artists work, you get into their heads a little more by seeing examples they have chosen of other sculptors work. Good stuff! If you are a beginner, don't be put off by the lack of basic information. Go take a class in clay--whether it's on the wheel or hand-building--get inspired and keep this book to remind you of what could be in your future.

My wife is a potter and is very into sculpting. She was not very subtle presenting the fact she really wanted this book for Christmas and though I try to surprise her with some of my purchases, I didn't with this one. She seems to have it in her hand on almost a daily basis and tells me about things she's learned all the time (I'm not a potter but as a hubby do try to be supportive) From her point of view this is a must have for anyone interested in sculpting pottery.

Very good altho some of the projects skip on details so there are gaps as one tries to follow the process. It is obviously for a more advanced sculptor who can fill in the blanks. Some odd choices of subject matter...abit on down and out or very impressionistic. Just a hint of anatomy as opposed to real anatomy but not bad and some parts are quite good

I've been wanting to get into ceramics for a while and this book was just the thing to get my creative juices flowing. It has many (500 actually) beautiful pieces to admire, with such a wide selection of styles. I love that it has a both beautiful and grotesque figures revealing so many artistic view points. It's definitely not a "how to" book, with just enough info to get a basic idea of how each piece was created but the beautiful photographs and wide variety of sculptures makes it well worth purchasing.

I recently purchased this book, and it has been a source of great inspiration to me. I began sculpting a human figure, something I thought not possible for me to do. I have been a student in a Pottery class for the past 4 years and my teacher Moira Beale is a master potter (she has been in ceramics for 25 years). She said she didn't think it would be possible to sculpt in clay a figure without using the traditional armature method. However, following the instructions in this book I have begun a sculpture without armature, it is now ready for bisque firing and I am so excited.

It's an informative text with fine illustrations. It's an informative text with fine illustrations. It's an informative text with fine illustrations. I don't understand why so many words are required. It's a good book and useful text

Best book of its kind.

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