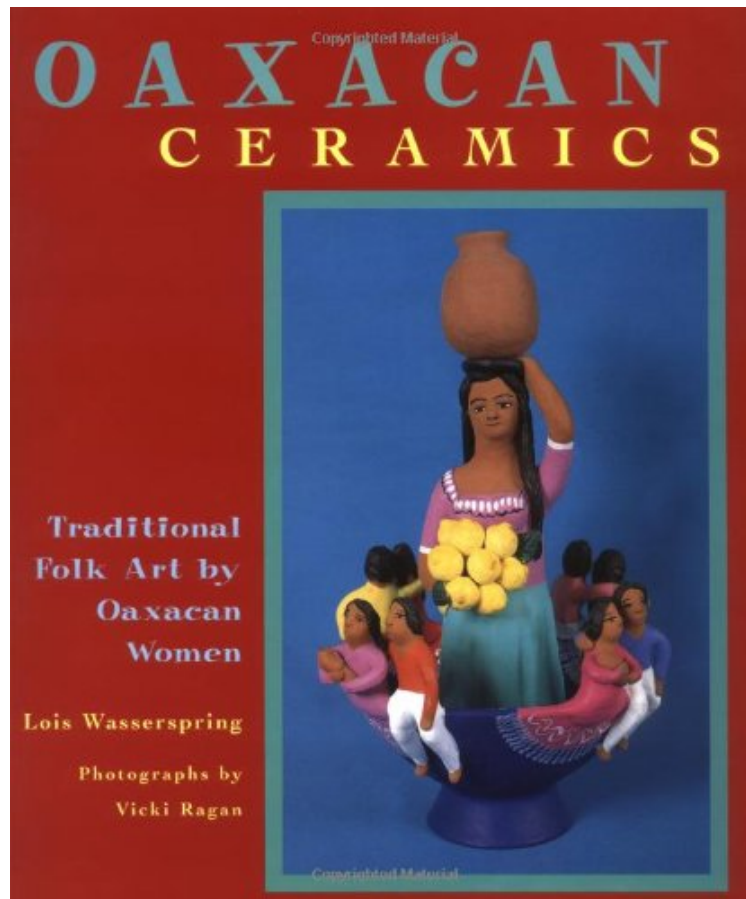


## Oaxacan Ceramics: Traditional Folk Art by Oaxacan Women

Lois Wasserspring

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**Lois Wasserspring : Oaxacan Ceramics: Traditional Folk Art by Oaxacan Women** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oaxacan Ceramics: Traditional Folk Art by Oaxacan Women:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great guide to Atzompa and Ocotln ceramics...By JDiverBorn and raised in Mxico and having a deep appreciation of its diverse and rich folk arts traditions, and guided by the reviews, I bought this book. What others say is true- this softbound book is lavishly illustrated and is a wonderful introduction to the contemporary ceramics covered, as well as the six women potters dealt with. These with a love of Oaxacan ceramics will likely love this book as well. There is but one, very significant problem: the title is, to me, completely misleading. The book actually covers two villages- Octoln de Morelos, and the reigning family of potters, as well as Santa Mara Atzompa and two of the many potters who work there. San Bartolo Coyotepec and the creator of world-renown black pottery, Doa Rosa Real de Nieto, and her descendants, for example, have no coverage in this book, nor do older more traditional forms. Oaxaca is an incredibly beautiful state, with many traditions and crafts. This book covers a small fraction of them- and in my opinion misleads with a title implying it covers all the ceramics of Oaxaca.

With that caveat, I highly recommend (and give a restrained five stars to) this book, within the scope of its limitations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Wonderful resource and great photos of art. Easy reading with interesting descriptions of the artisans and their processes. 21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A truly outstanding presentation of Oaxacan folk ceramics By David Marks Having been to Oaxaca approximately ten times in the past 20 years, I can appreciate the quality and beauty of this fine book. The reasonable price of this "paperback" belies its perfect format/size and its gorgeous photography, text and printing quality. I've rarely been satisfied with "crafts" books, but this one has been so perfectly written and executed, that it makes me want to jump on a plane and immediately fly to Oaxaca, to find and meet the fantastic artists presented here. I met one of these women several years ago (Angelica Vasquez), and this glorious book will create an urge in many of its readers to meet her and the other artists that are included here.

Prized by collectors worldwide, Oaxacan crafts are among the most popular forms of folk art today. This celebration of Mexican ceramics combines a gallery of more than one hundred stunning photographs with an insightful text that illuminates the artistry and the artists--all of whom are women. The fanciful, brightly colored works spring from the rich imaginations of rural women drawing on enduring religion, mythology, and themes from their everyday lives. Oaxacan Ceramics tells the remarkable story of six of the most renowned artisans who live and work in villages near the city of Oaxaca. Their exuberant, whimsical creations range from the fantastic to the religious, including mermaids, angels, Zapotec creatures, figures of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, vases, candle holders, and decorative plates--all finely crafted and distinctly colored. Oaxacan Ceramics paints an extraordinary portrait of a vibrant culture and its art.

From Library Journal Oaxaca is one of the poorest states in Mexico, and nearly half a million of its three million inhabitants have turned to the craft traditions of their ancestors to sustain themselves. Among the many popular art forms, the folk art of ceramics is the most widespread. Colorful and insightful, this book profiles the top artists working in this popular craft today and celebrates the new direction taken in pottery--the transition from utilitarian to whimsical and decorative. While some pieces remain utilitarian, others sport colorful fish or angel faces protruding in bas-relief. Bright, cheerful colors cover nativity figurines, animals and mermaids from folklore, skeletons in dress-up, and Frida Kahlo lookalikes. Wasserspring (Latin American studies, Wellesley Coll.) discusses the lives of the mostly women potters as well as their techniques and artistic tradition. The quality of the photographs and paper is outstanding, as is the price for such a well-produced art book. Although there are many larger books on Mexican art, as a single source on Oaxacan ceramics, this book is unique. Recommended for academic libraries and large public libraries with contemporary or Latin American art collections as well as special libraries with an interest in Latin American art or culture. D Sylvia Andrews, Indiana State Lib., Indianapolis Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Lois Wasserspring teaches at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she is director of Latin American Studies. Vicki Ragan is a photographer whose works are in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum of Fine Art in New York, the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona, and Polaroid Corporation's International Art Collection in Amsterdam. The aut