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Guy Berger

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[PDF] Mata Ortiz Pottery Today

Mata Ortiz Pottery Today

Guy Berger : Mata Ortiz Pottery Today before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mata Ortiz Pottery Today:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lots of good visuals. Wish there was more about individual potters ...By XenaLots of good visuals. Wish there was more about individual potters and also, perhaps, value estimates.22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Huge DisappointmentBy artcollector"Mata Ortiz Pottery Today" was a huge disappointment. Guy Berger does not know the village of Mata Ortiz nor is he familiar with the works of the potters. He is a shop owner who sells Mata Ortiz pottery which he purchases from traders. Two of the pots pictured are instantly recognizable as being the work of Renalda Quezada, but are attributed to her brother, Renaldo Quezada, whose work is famous for a completely different style and never makes pots like those of his sister. This is an easy mistake to make if one knows nothing about the individual styles of the potters, and is simply trying to read signatures. The pictures of the pottery, about 90% of the book, are fuzzy and often have large reflections which obscure the intricate painting and designs. In addition, while there are a few pots pictured by truly talented potters, about 80% are

mediocre and do not reflect the amazing artistry evolving in the village today. Either of the other two books published this year about Mata Ortiz pottery, while not as good as "The Many Faces of Mata Ortiz", would be a better buy.¹³ of

13 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing book on Mata Ortiz pottery
By collector
I have been collecting Mata Ortiz pottery for thirty years and I have made many trips to the village. Guy Berger may be an expert on pueblo pottery, but he knows nothing about Mata Ortiz pottery. There were mistakes in the book and many of the pots pictured were very poor examples of the high quality of pottery that is produced in Mata Ortiz. Don't buy this book.

This distinctive pottery, made for use and for show at the village of Mata Ortiz, Mexico, evolved from Juan Quezada's first efforts in 1974 into a business that involves the village and now employs around 350 potters. Six distinct styles are presented: black, polychrome, sgraffito (etched), colored, miniature, and special shapes. Bowls, plates, vessels, and delightful figural pieces have recognizable glazes and coloring that have made Mata Ortiz pottery welcome in many ceramics collections today. This fresh and comprehensive book includes a fascinating discussion of similarities in the bird motif with Acoma Pueblo (New Mexico) pottery. Private and gallery pottery collections were studied, making this a thorough presentation of old and new work. Each form is described with the maker's name, decorative details, and dimensions. Estimated retail values are suggested as a general guide. Both older and emerging artists are well represented, making this an important reference for the classic forms, current styles, and future designs.

About the Author
Guy Berger is the owner of the Palms Trading Company, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Following his family's tradition in business, he specializes in acquiring pottery directly from native potters throughout the Southwest and Mexico. He is an author of the books Pueblo Pottery Families (3rd edition), and Pueblo and Navajo Contemporary Pottery and Directory of Artists, now in its second edition.