The work of America’s art potters became the first truly American original art to find widespread success both in the United States and on the international stage. In the decades following the Civil War, interest in art pottery grew out of the popularity of decorating china with painted designs—a pastime dominated by women. Beginning roughly with the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876, the demand for china—referred to by contemporary writers as the “ceramics craze” or “china mania”—expanded to include art pottery as an essential element of interior decoration. The industry flourished until World War I but continued even into the 1950s. All the while, American women played a very prominent role. At its height, American art pottery enjoyed production centers in virtually every region of the country although if it had a capital, one would have to say it was in the Ohio River Valley, where the clay was right and conditions were encouraging. In the Midwest, Maria Longworth Nichols (1849–1932), a onetime amateur china painter from a wealthy family, founded Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati, but New England (Grueby), the South (Newcomb), the Midwest (Holland), and New York (Artus Van Briggle) were all sites of important potteries. This gallery is devoted to the superb art pottery produced by American companies now well-known among historians, collectors, and connoisseurs of ceramics.
Clockwise from top:
4) Vase, 1900—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1900—Glazed white clay
Vase, 1880—Glazed clay
Vase, 1900—Glazed white clay

1) Vase, 1896—Glazed buff clay
2) Vase, 1896—Glazed tan clay
3) Vase, 1896—Glazed gold clay
4) Vase, 1896—Glazed buff clay

5) Pitcher, 1899—1910
Biloxi Art Pottery, Biloxi, Mississippi, 1895–1910

6) Vase, 1900—Glazed yellow clay
7) Vase, 1900—Glazed red clay
8) Vase, 1900—Glazed red clay
9) Vase, 1900—Glazed red clay
10) Vase, 1900—Glazed red clay

11) Vase, 1890—Glazed yellow clay
12) Vase, 1890—Glazed yellow clay
13) Vase, 1890—Glazed yellow clay
14) Vase, 1890—Glazed yellow clay
15) Vase, 1890—Glazed yellow clay

16) Landscape plaques
Glazed white clay

17) Vase, 1918
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967

18) Vase, 1918
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rothenbusch, active at Rookwood 1899–1931
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVIII / 1906 / Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson (PO-049-86)

19) Vase, 1896—Glazed clay with metal overglaze (opaque decalcoated with gold wash)

20) Vase, 1896—Glazed clay

21) Pitcher, 1899—1910
Biloxi Art Pottery, Biloxi, Mississippi, 1895–1910

22) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

23) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

24) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

25) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

26) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

27) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

28) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

29) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

30) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

31) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

32) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

33) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

34) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

35) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

36) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

37) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

38) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

39) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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41) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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44) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

45) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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47) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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49) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

50) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

51) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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53) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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77) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

78) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

79) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

80) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

81) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

82) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

83) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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85) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

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87) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

88) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

89) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

90) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

91) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

92) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

93) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

94) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

95) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

96) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

97) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

98) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay

99) Pitcher, 1899—Glazed red clay

100) Vase, 1899—Glazed red clay
Vase, 1918
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rothenbusch, active at Rookwood 1896–1931
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVIII / ∙2060 /
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson (PO-019-71)

Misty Morn in original frame, c. 1927
Decorator: Frederick George Diers, 1870–1947
Signed, lower right: E. Diers
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 370 – 2 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "MISTY MORN" / E. Diers (PO-020-71)

Untitled landscape in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Charles (Carl) Schmidt, 1869–1950
Signed, lower right: C. Schmidt
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 530 - / 15 - / " / 700 - /
Paper label: "MLY MORN" / E. Diers (PO-033-82)

Storm Clouds: Holland in original frame, 1880–1967
Decorator: Edward Timothy Hurley, 1869–1950
Signed, lower left: [conjoined ETH] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 370 – 2 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "HOLLAND" / E. Diers (PO-035-82)

17) Left to right:

Vase, 1889
Glazed red clay with applied electroformed copper
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: Katuro Shiryayamadani, 1865–1948
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "ROOKWOOD" / E. Diers (PO-015-94)

Vase, 1913
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Sara Van, 1870–1949
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "SUNNY TROPICS" / L. Asbury (PO-002-79)

Sunny Tropics in original frame, c. 1933
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1933
Signed, lower left: L.A.
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "SUNNY TROPICS" / L. Asbury (PO-003-79)

A Florida River in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1933
Signed, lower right: L.A.
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "A Florida River / L. Asbury (PO-001-79)

Birches in original frame, c. 1927
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Signed, lower left: E. Diers
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "BIRCHES" / E. Diers (PO-037-86)

Untitled landscape in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Charles (Carl) Schmidt, 1869–1950
Signed, lower right: C. Schmidt
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "MLY MORN" / E. Diers (PO-020-71)

Bottom row, left to right:

Untitled landscape, 1927
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rothenbusch, active at Rookwood 1896–1931
Signed, lower right: C. Schmidt
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "MLY MORN" / E. Diers (PO-033-82)

Tiger Eye glaze
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: William Waite Taylor, 1847–1915
Decorator: Anna Van Briggle, 1869–1944
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "TIGER EYE GLAZE" / E. Diers (PO-035-82)

Vase, 1899
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: William Waite Taylor, 1847–1915
Decorator: Anna Van Briggle, 1869–1944
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "TIGER EYE GLAZE" / E. Diers (PO-035-82)

18) Vase, 1927
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Marks: [conjoined RP] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 10 - / cut out rabbit
Paper label: "W. E. HEMSCHEL" / E. Diers (PO-038-88)

19) Left to right:

Vase, 1882
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Maria Longworth Nichols, 1849–1932
Marks: ROOKWOOD / 1982 / 152 / [MNL] (PO-017-80)

1880–82. Glazed white clay / T. J. , Cincinnati, 1880–82

10) Landscape plaques
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967

Top row, left to right:

A Florida River in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1933
Signed, lower right: L.A.
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVIII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 50 - X
Paper label [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label: A Florida River / L. Asbury (PO-002-79)

Birches in original frame, c. 1927
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 50 - X
Paper label [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label: Birches and The [illegible] / E. Diers
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson (PO-037-86)

Middle row, left to right:

Sparks in original frame, c. 1899
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rothenbusch, active at Rookwood 1896–1931
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 50 - X
Paper label [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label: "SPARKS" / E. Diers (PO-016-89)

Storm Clouds: Holland in original frame, c. 1914
Decorator: Edward Timothy Hurley, 1869–1931
Signed, lower left: [conjoined ETH] / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 50 - X
Paper label [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label: "HOLLAND" / E. Diers (PO-035-82)

18) Vase, 1927
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVII / 9 x 14 ½ / signed / 4 ½ x 10 / 384 - 3 ½ " / 50 - X
Paper label [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label: "W. E. HEMSCHEL" / E. Diers (PO-038-88)

19) Left to right:

Vase, 1882
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Maria Longworth Nichols, 1849–1932
Marks: ROOKWOOD / 1982 / 152 / [MNL] (PO-017-80)
Left to right:

Vase, 1899
Glazed red clay with applied electroformed copper
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: William Watts Tate, 1847–1923
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / 1899 / [conjoined surmounted]

Vase, 1899
Goldstone glaze line with some Tiger Eye glaze
Glazed red clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: William Watts Tate, 1847–1923
Decorators: Artus Van Briggle, 1869–1904
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / 745 B / [conjoined AFBI]

Vase, 1927
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: William E. Hentschel, 1892–1962
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / 1927 / 2 ½” / [conjoined over right]

Vase, 1892
Glazed white clay with silver overlay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Sarah Alice Toery, 1872–1941
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / 1892 / [conjoined ST]

Vase, 1904
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Edward Timothy Harley, 1869–1930
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / H / [conjoined ST]

Vase, 1889
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Designer: Catherine Rookwood, 1865–1948
Marks: [conjoined RP surmounted by flames] / Kataro Shirayamadani

Vase, 1880–82
Glazed white clay, T.J.
Wheatley & Company, Cincinnati, 1880–82

Below are left to right:

Unidentified landscape in original frame, 1899
Decorator: Charles (Carl) Schmidt, 1875–1959
Paper label: [illegible]

Unidentified landscape, 1927
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rothenbusch, active at Daniel Henry Rookwood, 1896–1931
Signed, lower right: [conjoined surmounted]

Storm Clouds: Holland in original frame, 1880–1950
Signed, lower right: [conjoined surmounted]

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