This is because from the 1870s to World War I, American designers focused their talents on producing pottery that rivaled any contemporaneous pottery in the world in beauty, quality, and variety. The work of America’s art potteries became the first truly American art pottery to enjoy 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, a one-time amateur china painter from a wealthy family, founded Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati, but New England (Grueby), the Middle Atlantic (Fulper), and the South (Newcomb) all became sites of important potteries.

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 in the 1870s and on the international stage.

This gallery is devoted to the objects of American 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 in the 1870s and 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, a one-time amateur china painter from a wealthy family, founded Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati, but New England (Grueby), the Middle Atlantic (Fulper), and the South (Newcomb) all became sites of important potteries.

This gallery is devoted to the excellence, beauty, and variety of American art pottery.
1) Vase, c. 1880–82
Glazed white clay
T. J. Wheatley & Company, Cincinnati, 1880–82
(PO-090-94)

2) Vase, 1915–early 1920
Glazed clay
Fulper Pottery Company, Flemington, New Jersey, 1865–1935
Marks. [FULPER]
(PO-039-69)

3) Vase, c. 1909–20
No. 526
Glazed stoneware
Fulper Pottery Company, Flemington, New Jersey, 1865–1935
Marks. [FULPER]
(PO-060-87)

4) Clockwise from top:
Vase, 1916
Glazed white clay
The Pugh Forest Pottery, Anden, North Carolina, 1926-present
Decorator: Walter Benjamin Stephon, d. 1961
(PO-011-84)

Vase, c. 1900–3
Lustre ware
Glazed porcelain
Mary Louise McLaughlin, 1847–1939, Cincinnati
Marks. [conjoined MCL] / CO / 70
(PO-021-84)

Vase, 1921
Glazed porcelain
Robinson Pottery, Syracuse, New York, c. 1904–29
Adelaide Abbe Robineau, 1865–1929
Marks. [conjoined AR] / 17 / 1921
(PO-052-85)

5) Pitcher, c. 1898–1900
Glazed red clay
Bilou Art Pottery, Bilou, Mississippi, c. 1892-1910
George E. Otis, 1857–1918
Marks. G E Otis
(PO-038-75)

6) Vase, c. 1897–1897
Glazed stoneware
Geywitz Pottery, Boston, 1897–1913
(PO-072-66)

7) Vase, 1903
Glazed stoneware
Geywitz Pottery, Boston, 1897–1913
Decorator, Ruth Eckton, active at Geywitz, c. 1899–1910
(PO-009-66)

8) Vase, 1897
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Charles Carl Schmidt, 1875–1959
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XFI / 787 B / 18 / [conjoined CS]
(PO-057-66)

9) Vase, 1897
Glazed yellow clay
Thomas J. Wheatley, 1853–1917
Marks. T J Wheatley / Cincinnati / 1879 / [illegible]
(PO-005-70)

10) Vase, c. 1902
Glazed white clay
Newcomb College Pottery, New Orleans, 1899–1940
Potter: Joseph Fortune Meyer, 1848–1941
Decorator: Marie Medora Ross, active at Newcomb, 1896–1906
(PO-093-81)

11a) Left to right:
Vase, 1880
Glazed yellow clay
T. J. Wheatley & Company, Cincinnati, 1880–82
Marks. T J W & Co / Gar / Spot S 8 / 1880
(PO-001-72)

Vase, c. 1906
Glazed buff clay
Newcomb College Pottery, New Orleans, 1895–1940
Potter: Joseph Fortune Meyer, 1848–1941
Decorator: Loma Felson Nicholson, 1875–1966
(PO-027-79)

Vase, c. 1896–8
Glazed tan clay
Saturday Evening Girls’ Club of Paul Revere Pottery, Boston, 1908–42
Marks. SEG / LMD / 11-20
(PO-088-88)

Vase, 1911
Glazed white clay
Newcomb College Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Sara Saxe, 1870–1949
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XI / 589 F / 18 / [conjoined SAK] / CHI / 2
(PO-013-66)

12) Vase, 1902–7
Sicard’s line
Metallic-glazed white clay
S. A. Weller Pottery, Zanesville, Ohio, 1872–1949
Decorator: Jacques Sicard, 1865–1923
Marks on base: 29
Marks on side: WELLER / SCCARD
(PO-047-69)

13) Vase, 1903–10
Glazed clay
Fulper Pottery, Detroit, 1903–61, 1968–present
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson
(PO-089-56)

Vase, 1913
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XR / 13 / 296 / 4 / 343.5 / 2 / 30 X / 9 / 10 %
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. “MISTY MORNING” / E. DIERES
(PO-019-73)

Middle row, left to right:
Sunny Tropics in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1953
Signed, lower left. L. A.
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XIII / 16 / 50 / 5 / Sunny Tropics / 384.4 / 22 / 9 % / 14 %
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. Sunny Tropics / L. Asbury
(PO-089-79)

14) Landscape plaques
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVIII / L.A.
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson
(PO-033-82)

15) Left to right:
Vase, 1914
Glazed white clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Marks: [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XV / A Florida River / 9 / 5 / 15 / 384.4 / 3 / 22 / 30 / X
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. A Florida River / L. Asbury
(PO-002-79)

Vase, 1918
Glazed clay
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Decorator: Frederick Daniel Henry Rotherbusch, active at Rookwood 1896–1931
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson
(PO-089-56)

Misty More in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Signed, lower right. E. Dier
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XIII / 8 / 4 / 5 / Sunny Tropics / 384.4 / 22 / 9 % / 14 %
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. “MISTY MORNING” / E. DIERES
(PO-019-73)

Sunny Tropics in original frame, c. 1913
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1953
Signed, lower left. L. A.
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XIII / 16 / 50 / 5 / Sunny Tropics / 384.4 / 22 / 9 % / 14 %
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. Sunny Tropics / L. Asbury
(PO-089-79)

Birds in original frame, c. 1927
Decorator: Edward George Diers, 1870–1947
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XXVII / 87 / L.A.
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XVII / 1065B / L.A.
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson
(PO-073-86)

Paper label. “A Florida River in original frame, c. 1915
Decorator: Lenore Asbury, 1866–1953
Signed, lower right. L. A.
Marks. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames / XIII / 16 / 50 / 5 / Sunny Tropics / 384.4 / 22 / 9 % / 14 %
Paper label. [conjoined RP] surmounted by flames
Paper label. Sunny Tropics / L. Asbury
(PO-089-79)