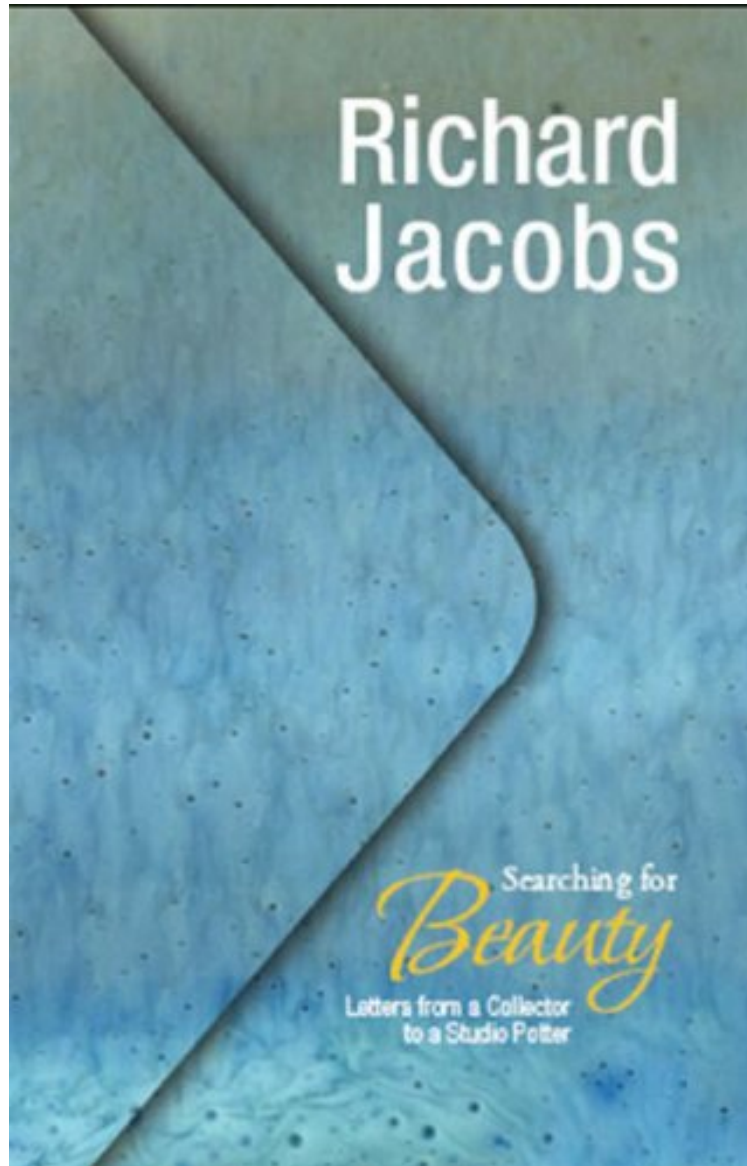


Searching for Beauty: Letters from a Collector to a Studio Potter

Richard Jacobs

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Richard Jacobs : Searching for Beauty: Letters from a Collector to a Studio Potter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Searching for Beauty: Letters from a Collector to a Studio Potter:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. start your quest for beauty here ...By M. KahnSearching for Beauty is unlike any other book I've come across. Jacobs' work continues in the fine tradition of the Essay form (with its

original meaning of 'to attempt' fully applicable) though it is structured as a series of letters written to a studio potter, taking its cue from Rilke's Letters to a Young Poet. Jacobs is a proud 'generalist,' and he successfully proves through his missive explorations that to eschew specialization for the interdisciplinary is in no way to turn ones back on rigor. Each page offers a dense richness of insight, not just for other 'young potters' out there, but to anyone who is concerned with the state of the planet, art, politics, and culture in the 21st century. Early in the book Jacobs offers this thought: "The essential weakness of perfection is that it must meet absolute and universal standards at the cost of the particular." This statement offers almost a template for the book itself. For Jacobs, whose passionate humanism and intellectual curiosity range far and wide, from the fate of orange trees in southern California to the paradox of William Morris' philosophy and life, from the fatal flaws of capitalism to the phenomena of IKEA, the search for beauty and love for his collection of pots, fragile yet durable, fitting into the human hand, interacting with light, offer the particular that anchors this book while in no way limiting it. What this book does, perhaps better than any other I've read, is to link together why the question of aesthetics is essential to the most pressing issues of our times. Should be compulsory reading, not only for potters but for any artist or maker (writers, students, dancers, chefs, mothers, teachers, painters).