

# The Journal of Modern Craft

Volume 6—Issue 1

March 2013

pp. 111–112

DOI:

10.2752/174967813X13535106841205

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# Book Reviews

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## Introduction

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In the past five years, since *The Journal of Modern Craft's* first issue in 2008, a wealth of books attending to issues crucial to modern craft have been published. If one of this journal's original aims was to "underline the fact that modern craft has a bibliography as rich and varied as many other cultural phenomena," the pages of our book reviews have demonstrated how rapidly expanding, globally engaged, and boundary-breaking the historiography of modern craft has become. Occasionally, however, a single voice, response, or interrogation of a book, or other type of publication, by an individual can leave both commentator and reader dissatisfied. Reviews, we would all agree, are essential in encouraging debate but some books require much more of a conversation than 1,000 words can afford. If our aim is to explore the best of contemporary writing on modern craft, then surely we should evolve and respond to new forms of writing such as blogs, where multiple authors can share opinions and participate in a conversation about a specific text? And, although we already have an arena for this (our website—[www.journalofmoderncraft.com](http://www.journalofmoderncraft.com)), in the spirit of stimulating discussion we have, for this issue of the journal, commissioned three reviews of a single book.

A response to the book in question, Janet Koplos and Bruce Metcalf's *Makers: A History of American Studio Craft* (2010), may have been long anticipated but our three reviewers approach it from refreshingly different positions and perspectives. Edward Lucie-Smith, Tom Denenberg, and Catharine Rossi bring a wide range of expertise, interests, and reactions, reflecting their respective roles as critic and curator, museum professional, and university lecturer. Between the three of them they give us much to think about. It is hoped that this will not be an exceptional episode in the reviews section and that it will open up a new sense of dialog between our reviewers and our readers.

Book Review Editor  
*The Journal of Modern Craft*

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