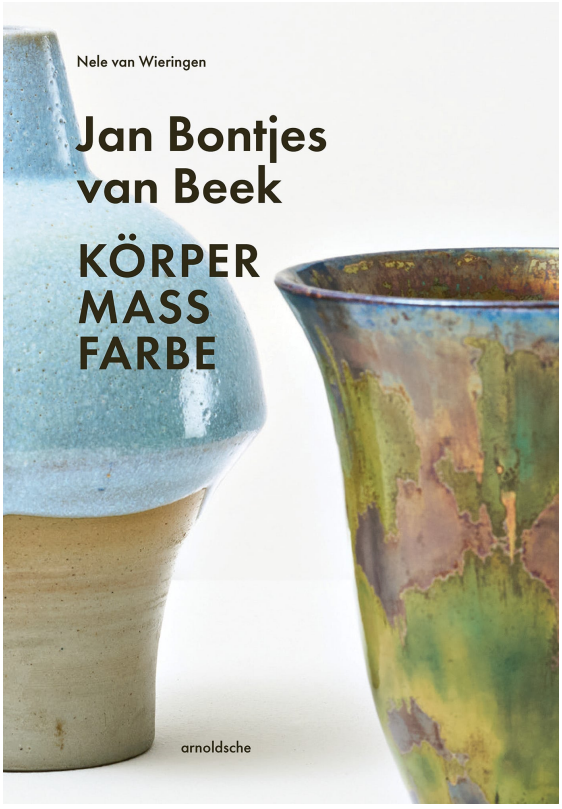
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Jan Bontjes van Beek

Body | Scale | Color

Edited by Nele van Wieringen

ISBN	9783897907522
Publisher	Arnoldsche Art Publishers
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Southern Europe, Australasia, USA, Canada
Size	245 mm x 170 mm
Pages	80 Pages
Illustrations	49 color
Price	£32.00

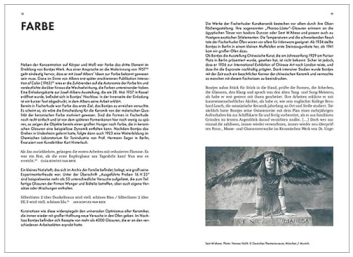
- Rare insight into a pioneering figure of modern ceramics
- Ceramic mastery blending materiality, colour, and dynamic form
- A vivid artist's life shaped by Germany's turbulent history

The moving life of Jan Bontjes van Beek (1899–1969) is closely associated with 20th-century German history. A "strikingly blonde sailor who could dance and play the violin," he joined the Worpswede artist's colony in 1919 and later found a home with the Breling family in Fischerhude, who introduced him to ceramics. With the support of his second wife, the architect Rahel Weißbach, he moved to Berlin in 1933, where his studio became a well-known meeting place for artists. Despite having been arrested by the National Socialists and his daughter Cato executed, he could not endure the GDR's Socialist Unity Party regime either and stepped down from a teaching post at the East Berlin Weißensee art school in 1950. He broke into teaching in West Berlin and, finally, in Hamburg continued his ceramic work, which provided the free thinker with a firm footing. Like no other, he emphasised materiality in form and dynamism in colour. During tumultuous times, he sought out the perfect balance for his vessels, and ultimately for himself.

Text in English and German.

Dr. Nele van Wieringen is head of the museum: Keramikmuseum Westerwald German Collection of Historical and Contemporary Ceramics near Koblenz.







Published 6th Feb 2026