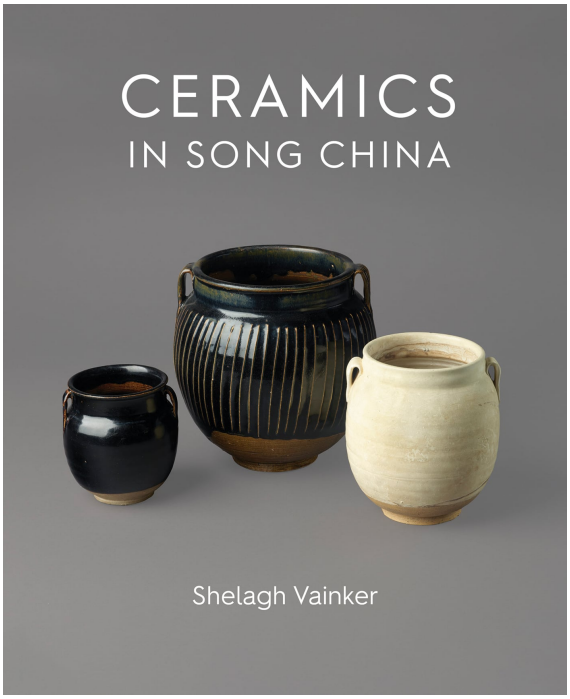
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +1 212 645 1111
Email: ussales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/us



Ceramics in Song China

Shelagh Vainker

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- First book to present Song ceramics within wider context of Song history
- Examines role of ceramics in different daily lives in the Song
- Explores environmental impact
- Illustrates many previously unpublished ceramics, and approx 200 new photographs

China's Song dynasty (960-1279) ceramics have long been famed for their simple shapes and beautiful glazes. ***Ceramics in Song China*** is the first book to look beyond their creation and aesthetics to explore how they functioned in Chinese society in their own time, and beyond. Looking at connections between ceramics and daily life, it takes in geology and environmental impacts as well as the movement of ceramics throughout the expanding Song urban environment. It shows how some ceramics document otherwise forgotten lives and social practices while illuminating how the concerns of poets, scholars and officials are present in others. Concluding with a survey of Song ceramics in the collections of Chinese emperors, Japanese temples, European royalty and English writers, this book presents a new account of how one of the world's greatest ceramic productions touched every Song life and went on to intrigue generations of admirers across the world.

Shelagh Vainker is Curator of Chinese Art at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford where she is also Associate Professor of Chinese Art in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and is a leading authority on Chinese art. She was previously Curator of Chinese Ceramics and Textiles at the British Museum and is a past President of the Oriental Ceramic Society. In addition to full-length monographs on Chinese silk and Chinese pottery and porcelain she is the author of numerous scholarly articles on the ceramics, silver, lacquer, silk, and architecture of the Song dynasty as well as of a number of exhibition catalogues on modern and contemporary Chinese painting.

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