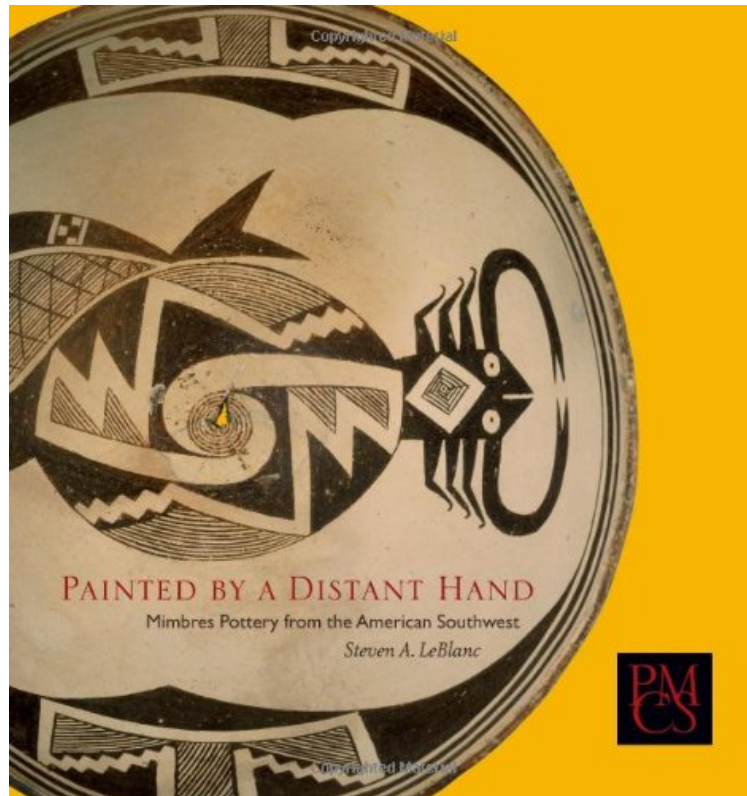


(Free pdf) Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest (Peabody Museum Collections Series)

## Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest (Peabody Museum Collections Series)

Steven A. LeBlanc

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**Steven A. LeBlanc : Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest (Peabody Museum Collections Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest (Peabody Museum Collections Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to some of the finest Native art in North America By R. M. Peterson Of all prehistoric Southwestern pottery I am familiar with, the most aesthetically appealing is that of the Mimbres. As a people, the Mimbres do not have the "name recognition" of their neighbors to the north, the Anasazi. While they did not leave impressive masonry ruins as the Anasazi did at places like Chaco and Mesa Verde, they did leave remarkable pots buried beneath their villages along the Mimbres River in the southwestern corner of New Mexico. PAINTED BY A DISTANT HAND is an excellent introduction to Mimbres pottery. The first part of the book is an essay by archaeologist Steven A. LeBlanc, divided into short, informative chapters such as "A Brief History of the Mimbres People", "Mimbres Daily Life", and "Who Painted the Bowls?" (The consensus answer to that question is, for any given Mimbres village at any one time, only a few select artists -- who most likely were

women, recognized for the quality of their work and, because they were few in number, able to follow and develop sophisticated design styles.) LeBlanc's text is intelligent and lucid, and, I believe, based on sound archaeology and anthropology. That text sets the stage for appreciation of the twenty-five Mimbres pots that are meticulously photographed in full color and presented in the second half of the volume. Brief textual commentary accompanies each of these twenty-five photographed pots, as well as, for some of them, photographs of similarly designed pots that very well may have been painted by the same artist. Some of the decorations on these pots are geometrical in nature and incredibly intricate. Others are figurative, and astonishingly "modern" -- bringing to mind Picasso and Matisse. While it is nigh impossible to describe what makes Mimbres pottery special, PAINTED BY A DISTANT HAND should convey the notion. All of the pots in this book are in Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and most of them come from one site in the Mimbres Valley, the Swarts Ruin (excavated between 1924 and 1927). Of course, looking at a book cannot be anything like seeing and handling such artifacts in person, but rarely have I come across a book that does as good a job as this one at giving a feel for the museum pieces it presents. PAINTED BY A DISTANT HAND is one of a series of books, the "Peabody Museum Collections Series", and if other entries present their subject as well as this one does, I have a few other books to add to my library and enjoy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Excellent resource 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good and interesting book By Steven Ludwig The book was good, but I have several books on Mimbres art. I would have given it a 4.5 star if that was available. It was better than four, but I hold out a rating of five for a masterpiece. It is a great book and recommend it to all. Especially the interpretation of the symbolism was tantalizing. I just thought it was somewhat wrongly interpreted.

Highlighting one of the Peabody Museum's most important archaeological expeditionsthe excavation of the Swarts Ranch Ruin in southwestern New Mexico by Harriet and Burton Cosgrove in the mid-1920s Steven LeBlanc's book features rare, never-before-published examples of Mimbres painted pottery, considered by many scholars to be the most unique of all the ancient art traditions of North America. Made between A.D. 1000 and 1150, these pottery bowls and jars depict birds, fish, insects, and mammals that the Mimbres encountered in their daily lives, portray mythical beings, and show humans participating in both ritual and everyday activities. LeBlanc traces the origins of the Mimbres people and what became of them, and he explores our present understanding of what the images mean and what scholars have learned about the Mimbres people in the 75 years since the Cosgroves' expedition.

Steven LeBlanc has compiled a very nice, easily comprehended guide for the lay reader that enhances one's knowledge and appreciation of the Mimbres pottery and culture. The book contains several sections that provide an introduction to the Mimbres area and culture, including a background for the Swarts Ruin collection, a brief history of the Mimbres people, and a perspective of their daily life. (Harry Shafer Journal of Anthropological Research) Stephen LeBlanc's Painted by a Distant Hand is a slim but informative volume inspired by a two-year-long exhibit of Mimbres (A.D. 200-1100) pottery at Harvard's Peabody Museum... LeBlanc discusses the meaning of the pottery's figurative imagery and abstract patterns, the artists who created them (most likely women), and what they indicate about daily life, all in clear, straightforward prose. (Archaeology 2005-07-01) About the Author Steven A. LeBlanc is an archaeologist and Director of Collections at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Rubie Watson is Curator of Comparative Ethnology in the Harvard University Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Hillel S. Burger is a professional photographer.