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TIFFANY'S FORGOTTEN POTTERY



Although it might seem like everything Louis Comfort Tiffany touched turned to gold, the guy had his failures, too. Between 1903 and 1917, Tiffany's factory turned out nearly 7,000 ceramic pieces, often depicting objects from nature and decorated in monochrome or spattered matte glazes. The public response was muted, to say the least.

Now New York City's [Lillian Nassau Gallery](#) has assembled about 60 of these works for a new exhibition, and commissioned noted scholar Martin Eidelberg to write an accompanying book, *Tiffany Favriile Pottery and the Quest of Beauty*.

Tiffany coined the term "Favriile" to describe objects that were handmade. But, according to Eidelberg, most of his pottery was cast, not made by hand. (Evidently, pottery wasn't the only thing Mr. Tiffany was fabricating.) That doesn't lessen their artistry, however. Provocatively glazed and exquisitely composed (I love the little frog crouching under the lily pad in the piece above), Tiffany's pottery reveals yet another facet of this masterful artist and entrepreneur.

The Lillian Nassau Gallery is located at 220 East 57th Street; the Favriile pottery exhibit continues there through January 31.