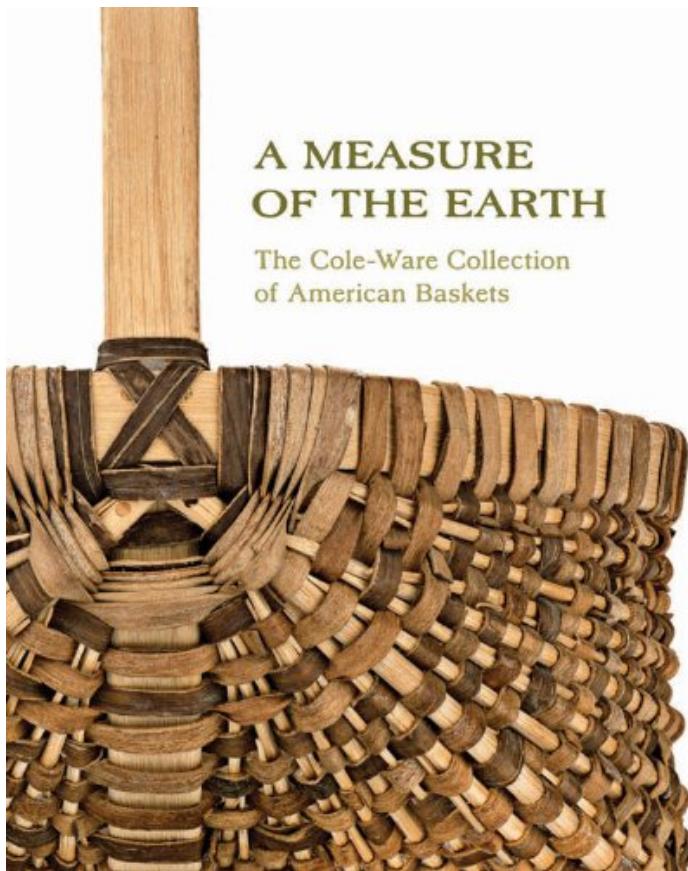


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# A Measure of the Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets

*Nicholas R. Bell*

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**Nicholas R. Bell : A Measure of the Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Measure of the Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Glorious BasketsBy FroggyI bought this book as a gift for a friend who used to weave baskets when living in the mountains of California. Now, after a career that limited time for it, I sent her this to inspire her. She called it "gorgeous." I think it was a very good buy.0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ximena Covarrubiathank you1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly ReccomendBy molly jBeautiful, inspiring, with excellent history of design, style, materials and craftspeople.

A Measure of the Earth provides an unparalleled window into an overlooked corner of recent American history: the traditional basketry revival of the past fifty years. Steve Cole and Martha Ware amassed a remarkable collection using the most stringent guidelines: baskets made from undyed domestic materials that have been harvested by the maker. An essay by Nicholas Bell details the long-standing use of traditional fibers such as black ash and white oak, willow and sweetgrass, and the perseverance of a select few to claim these elements--the land itself--for the enrichment of

daily life. As they trek through woods, fields, farm, and shore in the quest for the right ingredients for a basket, these men and women cultivate an enviable knowledge of the land. Each basket crafted from this knowledge provides not only evidence of this connection to place, but also a measure of the earth. Drawing on conversations with the basketmakers from across the country and reproducing many of their documentary photographs, Bell offers an intimate glimpse of their lifeways, motivations, and hopes. Lavish illustrations of every basket convey the humble, tactile beauty of these functional vessels.

Essential. Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers; general readers.--Choice[Bell] offers an unparalleled window into the traditional basket revival of the past 50 years.--NICHE MagazineAbout the AuthorNicholas R. Bell is the Fleur and Charles Bresler Senior Curator of American Craft and Decorative Art at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. His books include 40 under 40: Craft Futures, History in the Making: Renwick Craft Invitational 2011, and A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection.