Mary Chase Perry founded **Pewabic Pottery** in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903. A **Pottery** is a place where people create pots, tiles, and other items out of clay. The exhibit you'll see today has many examples of pottery from Pewabic Pottery’s past. Today the pottery is still open in Detroit, and you can visit and see the potters making tiles and pots!

**How is a Pot like a Human?**

Different at first glance, you and the pots you see actually have several things in common!
The name "Pewabic" (pronounced Poo-wah-bik) might sound strange! Mary named her pottery after the Pewabic copper mine near her birthplace in Hancock, in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Mary Chase Perry loved to experiment with different glazes. A glaze is a liquid material made of finely ground minerals that is applied to a clay pot before it is fired. Wet or unfired glaze looks grey but when fired or baked in a kiln, the glaze ingredients melt together and form a hard, colorful glasslike coating. Mary described glazing as "painting with fire."

Look around the exhibit. What are the different colors you see?

Mary and the other potters at Pewabic Pottery also experimented with different shapes and sizes for their pots and tiles. When you walk around you’ll see pots that are big and some that are very small. Do you have a favorite pot? What do you like about it?

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Have you ever baked cookies? Mary used a kiln (an oven for baking and hardening clay) like the one you see in the exhibit to “bake” her pottery — but at much higher temperatures. To bake cookies you need a 350 degree Farenheit oven, but to bake pottery you would need the oven to be much hotter, between 1000 and 2400 degrees!
A Pewabic Pottery Hunt!

**Can YOU find these pots?**

Look Carefully!

This **RED** pot might be tiny but its color is bold and shiny!

This vase here is tall and **GREEN**, and on its surface peacocks preen (do you see them?!)

**BROWN** and looks like rabbit’s fur, the glaze on this pot is pleasing for sure!

On the bottom of this **BLUE** vase you’ll see some drips; Mary decided to let the glaze slip!

Don’t stop now, there is more to find! Do you see a tile with Aladdin and the genie inside?

Satisfy your curiosity: find the special tile for **Michigan State University**!

What other interesting pots or tiles do you see?
Mary would often draw her pots before they were formed in clay. Draw your own pot here and then “glaze” it with your favorite colors using markers or colored pencils.

From 1965–1981 Pewabic Pottery was run by Michigan State University!

Kresge Art Museum is open to the public. Admission is free. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 12–5 p.m.

To learn more, please visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.