



Untitled

Date

2017

Primary Maker

Jeffrey Gibson

Medium

Glazed ceramic and repurposed ceramic figurines

Description

Jeffrey Gibson created three ceramic assemblages for inclusion in his 2018 Wellin solo exhibition *Jeffrey Gibson: This Is the Day*, including this untitled work, which he donated to the museum. Gibson, who has Choctaw and Cherokee heritage, spent time in West Germany and South Korea as well as the US during his childhood. These influences, plus many others, converge in his multidisciplinary practice. This work features mass-produced tchotchkes alongside ceramic elements created by the artist based on Mississippian head pots. These effigy vessels shaped like human heads were created by Mississippian cultures (900 CE–1450 CE) who are most likely the ancestors of today's Indigenous communities there. Gibson notes, "The faces on these pots are

depictions of people who share facial features with me and other members of my family." This ceramic assemblage also includes a number of found figurines made in Japan in the 1970s and '80s that depict "Native Americans." The artist has commented regarding his use of these representations of Indigenous peoples, "I want to reappropriate these images and objects to complicate the ways in which we think about them. Who owns what? Whose voice is whose? I want the viewer to consider issues of authenticity in relationship to aesthetic expectations." Tentatively balanced, this pile of handmade and mass-produced ceramic elements depicting "Native Americans" has been dribbled with paint and presented to the viewer for consideration on a china plate.

Dimensions

Overall: 17 3/4 × 15 × 10 3/4 in. (45.1 × 38.1 × 27.3 cm)