



Spring (Budding Stone)

Date

1989

Primary Maker

Tom Huff

Medium

Virginia steatite and wood

Description

Tom Huff's artwork brings together traditional Native American iconography and materials with contemporary techniques in stone carving. Of Seneca and Cayuga descent, Huff is part of a movement that began in the 1970s in which artists of Native American ancestry reclaimed appropriations of their heritage. This piece was carved from Virginia steatite, also known as soapstone, a soft and workable stone found in the Appalachian and Chesapeake region. Historically, Native American craftsmen used this stone to create pots, bowls, and pipes. The sculpture's form resembles a tree, complete with bark and protruding branches, referencing the natural materials that inspired it. (SOURCE: Wellin Museum permanent collection label, Summer 2016).

Dimensions

Composition: 18 5/8 x 10 1/2 in. (47.3 x 26.7 cm)