



and usher in spring.

Dimensions

Overall: 17 x 10 1/4 x 10 1/4 in. (43.2 x 26 x 26 cm)

Skyworld

Date

2009

Primary Maker

Peter B. Jones

Medium

Modeled clay

Description

Skyworld is a "contemporary traditional" pot, according to artist Peter B. Jones. Although the vessel was created with modern clays and high-fired in a kiln, its form consisting of a rounded narrow base, coil-built bulbous body, and embellished collar emulates early, pre-contact clay pots that were low-fired in pits. Jones was especially inspired by excavated Ripley, New York pots from the 1600s that were created in the Susquehannock style by peoples along the shores of Lake Erie. He continues to experiment with low-fire pottery to rediscover the lost processes of his ancestors, noting stylistic similarities across tribal affiliations likely due to trade. The Wellin pot features bolts of lightning and a downpour of replenishing rain shooting from spiralized clouds incised on the collar. At four points on the collar are "thunderer" effigies visually imagined by Jones and framed between plaited and lobed decoration. According to the Haudenosaunee creation story, thunderers suppress evil entities within inner earth, preventing their escape and spread of chaos. The Thunder Dance occurs after the first lightning of the year to honor these effigies