



Spider Motif Head Pot

8 x 5 x 5 inches

Pottery, White Earthenware Clay, Wheel Thrown, Hand Painted, Kiln Fired

Price available upon request

Victoria McKinney

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Bio

I am a self-taught potter and painter and have progressed in thirty years from attending what I call “Duck and Bunny” arts and crafts fairs in small towns in Arkansas to participating in some of the most prestigious Native American art shows in the country including the Red Earth Native American Art Festival, the Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market and Festival, the Haskell Indian Art Market, and the Heard Museum Art Guild Native Art Festival, culminating in being designated in 2009 as a Master Artist of the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, OK.

I am passionate about my artwork and I have a desire to educate the public about the art and motifs of the Mound Builders. My artwork is colorful, eye-catching, has very fine detail and has its own recognizable style, as I have been told by many of my collectors and artist friends. To add another dimension to my artwork, I have recently discovered, with the advent of 3-D movies and the proliferation of 3-D glasses, that, because of my style of painting, my paintings are three-dimensional when viewed through Chroma 3-D glasses.

As well as being a Master Artist of the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, I have also been the “Featured Artist” at numerous festivals including the Red Earth Festival, The Tulsa Indian Art Market and the Creek Council House Art Market, among other festivals. I have also won numerous awards in both the “Paintings” and “Pottery” categories in dozens of shows over my thirty-year career.

My family history reaches back seven generations in Northwest Arkansas, first moving to the Arkansas Territory in 1820 onto the Cherokee Reservation. When that reservation was dissolved, my family remained in the Pea Ridge area where many of them still reside to this day.

Artist Statement

I specialize in contemporary paintings and pottery which incorporate the graphic designs of the Mound Builders of the prehistoric Woodlands and Mississippian Period in the eastern portion of what is now the United States. While taking a college class on “Indians of Arkansas,” we studied the Mound Builders’ civilization and I was struck and impressed by the incredible designs and motifs that they incorporated into their shell work, hammered copper and pottery. I began to feel that these ancient people were part of my cultural heritage and I am dedicated to do what I can to honor them and to expand people’s knowledge of their designs.

In my paintings, I combine designs that represent ancient Cherokee legends, birds like hummingbirds, or insects like dragonflies with the designs from the Mound Builders. I develop a theme in the painting and then incorporate a color scheme for each design that follows my artistic flare. I use mostly canvas and artist board as a surface and metallic, and flat acrylic paint and metal leaf as the mediums. I use a traditional two-dimensional flat-style method of painting in depicting the subject matter. My colors are bold and striking and will catch your eye from across the room. The paintings are also 3-D when viewed with 3-D glasses.

My pottery is hand-thrown red, brown and white low-fire earthenware. The low-fire clay body allows my designs to maintain their bright colors. I determine a motif and color scheme for each piece and paint the motifs on the raw clay with glazes which are then fired into the vessel.

To further individualize each piece of pottery I sign my name on the bottom and provide a brief description of the design and list the Mound site where it was discovered.