

Nature's Forms

Artist Jennifer McCurdy has been working with porcelain for more than 40 years and has received acclaim for her masterful technique and the simple, pristine beauty of her pieces. She has always loved porcelain for its beautiful surface and how it conveys the qualities of light and shadow that she wishes to express. Her porcelain and gilded sculptures are at once fragile and durable, taking inspiration from the surrounding natural world. A resident of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts McCurdy says, "Emo-

tion fills me when I see perfect forms in nature. The ordered symmetry and asymmetry of nature's forms reveal the growth of life — the movement of life."

"Gilded Lotus Nest" is made of high fire porcelain and 24-carat gold leaf and palladium and measures 8"x12"x12". With the three-dimensional interplay of its shining gold and silver swirls, and deep negative spaces, it brings movement and serenity to its surroundings. McCurdy's intention is to create an object of beauty that is precious yet new. This is observed in the fluid design rendered indelibly into the stone-smooth porcelain. After throwing her vessel on the potter's wheel, she alters the form to set up movements of soft shadow. Then, when the porcelain is leather hard, she carves patterns to add energy and counterpoint. It is fired to cone 10 where the porcelain becomes non-porous and translucent.

The bare form of "Gilded Lotus Nest" held glimpses of the balance between the convex and concave, and of light absorbed and reflected. As a further exploration, she combined the fine porcelain with the ancient art of gilding. The 24 carat gold leaf and palladium illumined the interior of the vessel to reveal new curves and patterns.

Jennifer's work resides in the collections of museums and patrons around the world, including the Smithsonian Museum's Renwick Gallery, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Everson Museum of Art.



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.