



a natural state

Artist: Billie Anne McKellar

Video 6: Archaeology, C. Bean Pot

Sandra Reinhardt: This fragment is very similar to contemporary Catawba pottery. It has the smooth, burnished surface to it, and it's very similar to this pot. This is a very old form, but it's a contemporary pot. It was made in 1991 by one of the master potters who duplicated it for us. We had seen a picture in an anthropological book showing a cooking pot suspended over a fire. It would have some rope or something around it, and held up by a tripod for cooking stews, or soups, or beans or something like that, and we wanted to try it out, so the potter made a replica for us, and this works really well, because you can suspend it over a fire, or you can put it at the edge of one, and just periodically, give it a little spin that keeps the contents stirred, and also keeps the heat evenly distributed. And when we cooked in it, we had very good results. We had beans in it. They were very good, and we were able to satisfy our curiosity, but this is an ancient form, but made by a contemporary potter. *End.*