



Reliquary of Bark, Bone, and Measured Time (2026) Pit fired clay vessel, birch bark, deer antler, electronic counter component, 36 x 26 cm. Collection of the Artist.

Like the sacred birchbark scrolls of the Anishinaabeg that record sacred and ceremonial information, clay vessels were also used to store sacred ceremonial material culture. Buried reliquary vessels containing faunal remains such as eagle bones, carved antler fragments, foods, medicines and lithic materials have been found in archaeological excavations at Providence Bay (site BkHn-3) on Manitoulin Island. Time measuring electronic devices like the Electronic Accelerator Mass Spectrometry are often used to count carbon-14 atoms for dating, and in the case of site BkHn-3 the ceramics and lithic materials date from the late precontact/early contact period (1000 CE to 1500 CE). *Reliquary of Bark, Bone and Measured Time* is a homage to those ancient ones who once cared for these vessels and sacred contents and who carried forward the traditional teachings and ceremonies to the next generation, since time immemorial.