

# Ceramic sculptures born from the ashes

## Moore sculptures on view in Beacon

By Nicole Edwards  
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For Tony Moore, wood-fired clay has its own organic language.

"It's very elemental," said Moore, a resident of Cold Spring.

Objects that are fired in a home-made, walk-in kiln are far from anything that is manufactured. The detail transposed onto their surfaces is the result of melted wood ash and flames burning at more than 2,000 degrees.

And for an artist who creates his own wood-fired ceramics, the art form has become an extension of 30 years of painting as well as sculpting.

"It's just one other aspect with just one other part of a lifelong search for meaning in one's life and the kind of art one creates," said Moore, who earned his bachelor of fine arts degree from Cardiff College of Art in Wales and his master of fine arts degree from Yale University in New Haven, Conn. "Perhaps one's art is a symphony with various movements within it."

When Moore started seven years ago, he was creating hand-thrown works and vessels. Later, he said, he realized his calling was in creating something more.

"Lyricist in a Time of War" is Moore's first solo exhibit in the area since moving to Cold Spring six years ago from New York City. The exhibit will include 25 of his wood-fired ceramic sculptures at Van Brunt Gallery in Beacon.

Red Hook artist Stevan Jennis will also be exhibiting his paint-by-number collages.

### Many layers to form

Moore's latest body of work includes his "memorial stones." Other sculptures such as "2004 A.D." are described by Roger Lipsey, an authority on ceramics, as a wounded bandaged soldier. Moore said his images aren't literal, but will incorporate human nature, social-political situations and archaic elements, suggesting "that perhaps as a culture we really haven't advanced that much from ancient forms of conflict."

"All of my work is concerned with human aspiration to better things, and I respond to nature and not just a bucolic sense of nature," Moore said. "It's really in response to the influences that pass through me, in a sense, in a moment of execution."

Carl Van Brunt, owner and director of Van Brunt Gallery, said



Courtesy photo

"Spirit" by Tony Moore is part of the exhibit "Lyricist in a Time of War."

Moore's technique is wood-firing ceramics, but the end product is sculpture.

"What he's doing is making art instead of producing craft," said Van Brunt said, who was introduced to Moore's work at a gallery.

Van Brunt became more familiar with the artist while visiting his studio in Cold Spring. He said he was "struck by the serious attempt to do something spiritual with his work."

"His kiln is a work of art in itself, which he built himself," Van Brunt said. "When you experience that, you really see the depth of commitment of Tony as an artist."

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### If you go

**What** — "Lyricist in a Time of War," exhibition of wood-fired ceramic sculptures by Tony Moore and collages by Stevan Jennis.

**When** — Saturday through Jan. 9; opening reception, Saturday, 6-9 p.m.; regular gallery hours, Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and by appointment.

**Where** — Van Brunt Gallery, 460 Main St., Beacon.

**Admission** — Free.

**Information** — Call 845-838-2995 or visit [www.vanbruntgallery.com](http://www.vanbruntgallery.com).