

Ancient Ohio Art Series

"The Middle Woodland Period"

ca., 2,200 - 1,500 BP

Panel 4 of 6



The Stubbs Earthworks is the backdrop for this scene in which a Hopewell shaman is combining his practical knowledge as an herbalist and his connections with the spirit world to cure the illness of his patient lying on the bench. His bearskin regalia is based on the details of the Wray figurine from the Newark Earthworks, while the clothing and hair styles of the other people in the scene are taken from terra cotta figurines found at Hopewell sites in Illinois. The Stubbs Earthworks, situated along the Little Miami River in Warren County, is portrayed as it appeared in 19th century maps. The site was damaged over the years by farming, gravel quarrying, and the construction of a high school. However, archaeologists were able to investigate portions of the site before the school was built. In the process, they discovered Ohio's only known "Woodhenge" the remains of a circular arrangement of large wooden posts that may have been used as a type of calendar. This artwork is based on technical information provided by Dr. Frank Cowan, Cowan and Associates, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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