

Artist's Statement

Turtle & Hiawatha Belt II

Tracey Anthony

For the people of Six Nations, the turtle plays an important role in the Creation Story. It is upon its back that Sky Woman came to rest after falling from the Sky World. Upon its back is where the people call home — Turtle Island. It also plays a role in the clan system of the Haudenosaunee as it is one of the nine clans. The symbol on the back of the turtle represents the Haudenosaunee, or “people of the longhouse,” commonly referred to as Iroquois, Six Nations, or Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Originally a confederacy of five nations inhabiting the northern part of New York State, the Haudenosaunee consisted of the Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga and Mohawk. When the Tuscarora joined the confederacy in the early 18th century, it became known as the Six Nations.

Details of artwork: *Turtle & Hiawatha Belt II* — Giclée on canvas — 20" w × 24" h