

Jes-stir Tea is part of a series of teapots called "Quaran-teanies", influenced by the novel Coronavirus pandemic. The series is comprised of various original fiber dolls balancing atop matching, thrown teapots, using the long, arching handles as a precarious base.

I consider myself equally a fiber and ceramic artist and am most inspired and challenged when I am able to combine them both in one creation. I have always been drawn to the teapot, both in form and as a representation of comfort and domesticity – both of which can seem imperiled by the novel coronavirus. In our isolated, but also common, efforts to re-imagine a new balance in our lives – sometimes called "the new normal" - we discover a renewed sense of uncertainty and loss as well as new creative possibilities.

The figure of the jester harkens to medieval times and the bubonic plague. Jester-like masks were worn then to fight off the scourge and evil spirits. The jester was thus a symbol in itself of tragedy, humor, superstition and balance.

The jester and scepter are sculpted of paper clay. I designed and hand-sewed the jester's costume of antique fabrics. The teapot is mid-range white stoneware clay thrown on a potter's wheel, glazed, with an extruded handle.