

A large, rounded, terracotta ceramic sculpture, resembling a traditional water jar or amphora, stands prominently in a lush garden. The sculpture is positioned on a gravel path, surrounded by vibrant green foliage and colorful flowers, including purple and red blooms. The background features a dense wall of green ivy and a stone pillar, creating a serene and artistic atmosphere.

STEPHEN PROCTER

MONUMENTAL CERAMIC ART

## STEPHEN PROCTER STUDIOS

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The ceramic vessels I make celebrate the earth they are made of. In landscape and architectural settings they elevate spaces into places of significance and sanctuary. Large scale inspires contemplation and conveys their stature as sculptures.

I am drawn to good large pots by their animate presence. As physical objects, they evoke a visceral response in viewers and impart new significance to the spaces they occupy. As metaphors, their forms suggest nourishment, gestation, and abundance, as well as the sensuousness of human and animal bodies.





▼ *The strong rising line of this Diana Jar lends an air of strength and assurance.*  
50" h



◀ *Mandorla Vessel. The simplicity of the Mandorla (Italian for "almond") makes an elegant sculptural statement.*  
50" h



▲ *The full belly of this Fertility Vessel suggests gestation and abundance.*

44" h



▲ *Several vessels can be grouped to create a strong sense of destination.*



▲ *The monumental stature of this Globe Vase enables it to stand on its own in any landscape.*  
58" h

*“My designs blend historical tradition with nature’s forms.  
When those influences harmonize, the work radiates a timeless  
presence that offers sustenance and pleasure.”*

— STEPHEN PROCTER

# Invocation



Large pots emanate a palpable quality of presence, and their mysterious aliveness is one aspect of their allure. What is the spirit that animates them?

▲ *Sanctuary installation, 2023.*  
**SOLD**



▲ A piece such as this *Banded Jar* can enhance the sense of movement along a garden path.  
34" h

# Place-making

The introduction of a large vessel transforms a space into a place. A formerly neutral space now has significance, and the relationships among everything in the vessel's purview are re-ordered.

▲ An organic form such as this Seed Pod vessel can create new relationships among neighboring elements.  
52" h



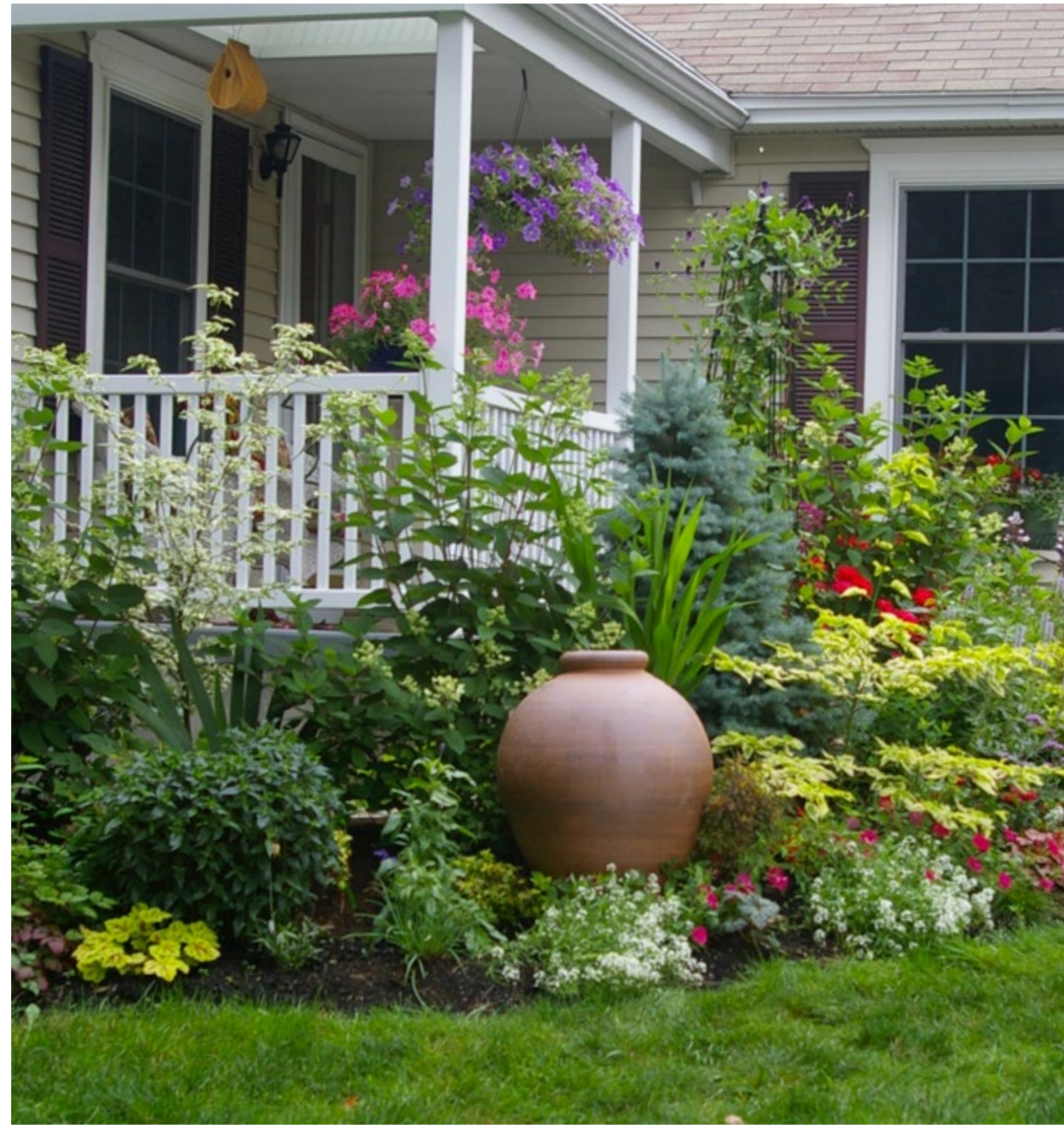
> A modest-sized vessel can function as a wonderful accent in a cottage garden.

26" h

>> The swell of this Classic Vase form suggests the fecundity of nature.

54" h

∨ A backdrop of barn board or stone wall sets off the vessels beautifully.



# Timelessness



The stony bare clay has a timeless character. Often when placing a pot in the landscape, someone in the party will say, "It looks like it has always been here!"

## Pots in Winter

Unlike terra cotta and other low-fire clays typically found in outdoor wares, the high-fire stoneware I use is impervious to moisture and is suitable for outdoor placement year-round, even in northern climates. As the foliage recedes in late fall, the pieces come forward even more strongly as sculptural elements, enlivening the winter landscape.



*Seed Pod* >



< *Mother and Daughter*



*Gaia Globe* >



< *Hera*

# INTERIORS



▲ *Diana Vase*  
52" h

➤ *Globe Vase*  
24" h

## Ancient Sources Revisited

The silhouettes and material of the vessels recall millennia of utilitarian pot-making, while their scale and sensuous curves suggest organic and human sculptural form. The work unites the spirit and vigor of ancient sources with the artist's contemporary sensibility and love of nature.





▲ A grouping of pieces in a gallery context

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## How They are Made

I build large pieces in many stages. Although I work on a potter's wheel, my approach is essentially sculptural: Beginning with a rough idea of scale and mood, the details of form and decoration arise through an improvisational dance that unfolds section by section as the piece finds its way to completion.

After many days of building and a week or more of drying, I load the vessels into my custom-built kiln, bring them to 2300°F in a day-long firing, and then allow them to slowly cool over three days. Each time I open the kiln, I have the thrill of seeing how (and if!) they fared through the extreme stresses of transformation by fire.





▲ *Buddha Belly vessel*

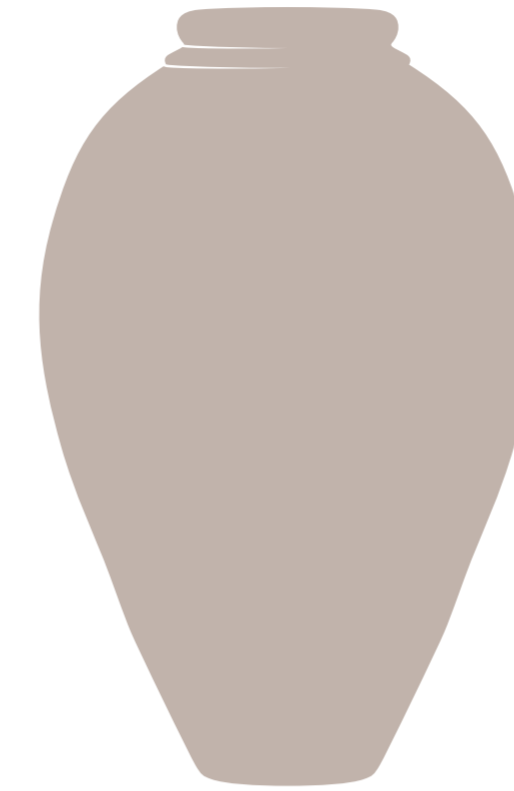
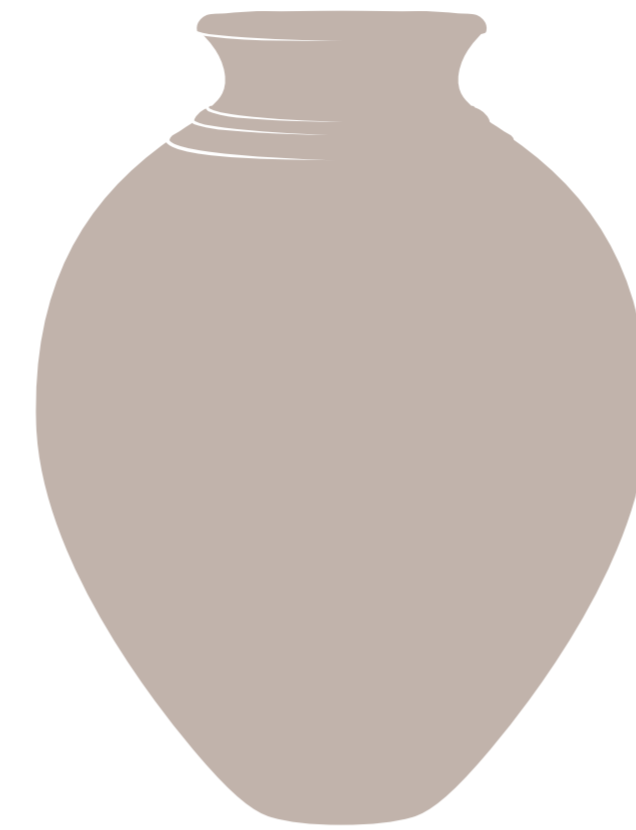
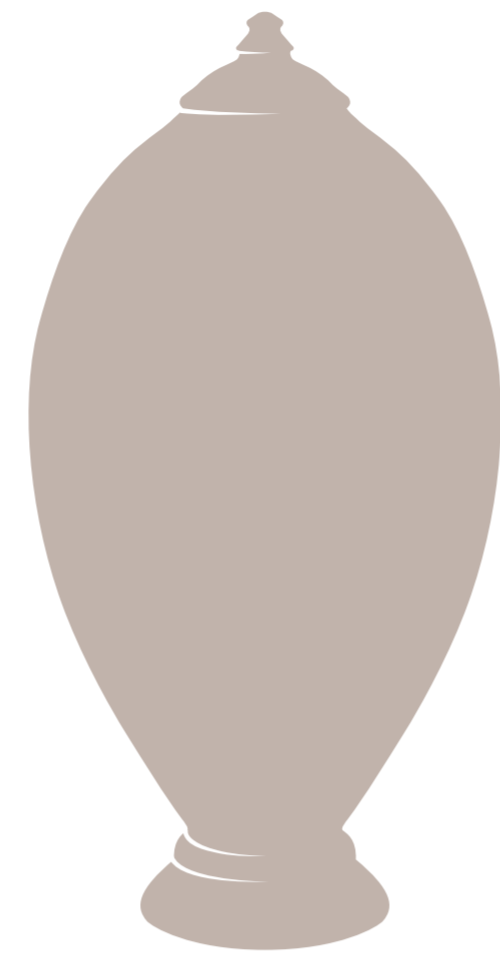
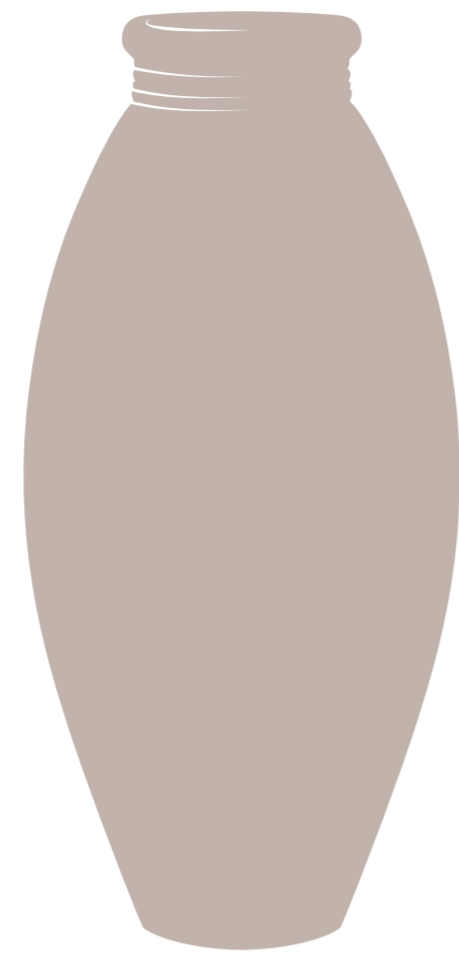
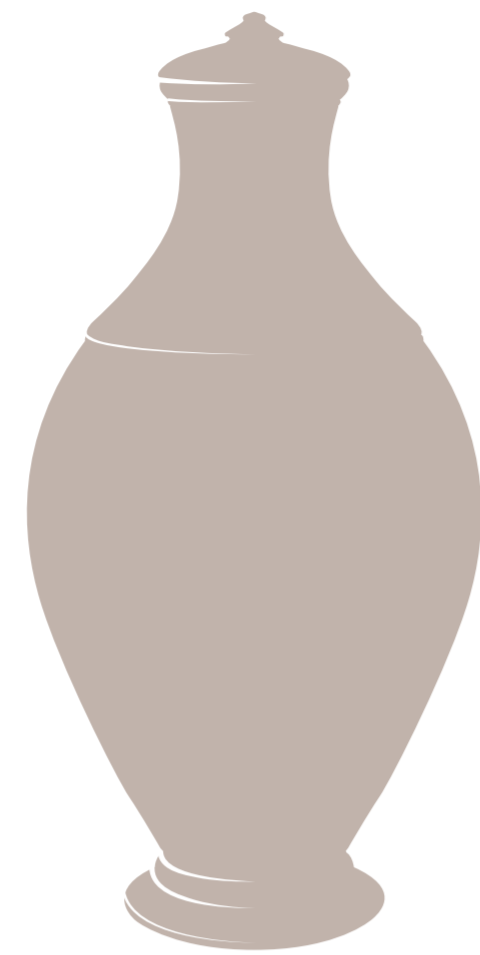
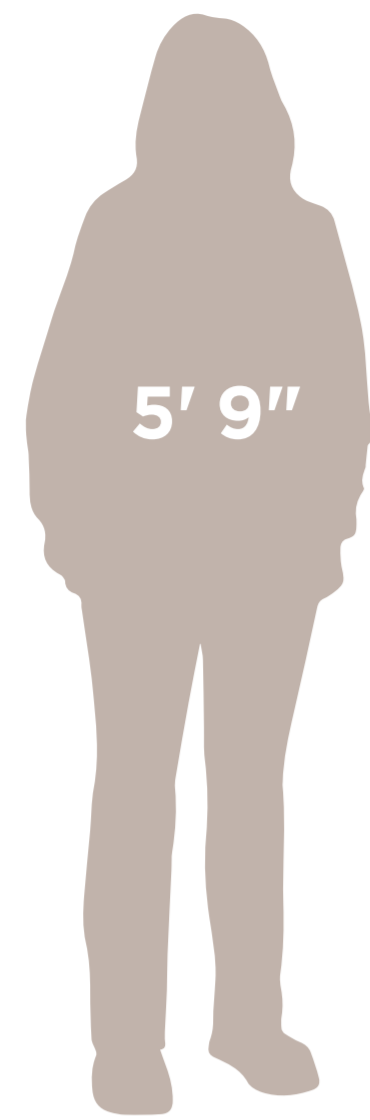
32" h

## Stephen Procter

In my 40's I made the transition from playing classical guitar professionally to working with clay. I had always been intrigued by the aura of a good large pot. Beyond its evocation of antiquity, it emanates a quality of presence that offers comfort, sustenance, and inspiration.

I was surprised to find that the same essential questions I dealt with as a musician defined my explorations in clay: What makes one gesture moving, but a similar one impotent? Why does a particular line evoke delight, awe, tears, or joy? How is it that the presence of the art inflects or even transforms the space it occupies? Mysteries such as these keep me at the wheel day after day, year after year.

I am endlessly fascinated by the power and resonance of the forms themselves, and I have been honored to have my work in leading art fairs, museum shows, and private collections across the Northeastern US and beyond.



**Classic Vase**

48h x 24w  
54h x 27w  
60h x 30w

**Cocoon**

50h x 25w  
60h x 30w

**Mandorla Vessel**

42h x 21w  
50h x 25w  
60h x 30w

**Fertility Vessel**

36h x 28w  
44h x 33w  
52h x 39w

**Diana Jar**

42h x 28w  
50h x 34w

**Buddha Belly**

24h x 25w  
30h x 31w  
34h x 36w  
40h x 42w

**Gaia Globe**

24h x 24w  
30h x 30w  
34h x 34w  
40h x 40w

**How to order standard forms (shown above):**

1. Order online by going to [StephenProcter.com](http://StephenProcter.com)
2. If you have questions before ordering, [info@stephenprocter.com](mailto:info@stephenprocter.com) or call (802) 277-0097
3. Once your order is received, we will contact you with an estimated delivery time. Direct delivery and installation service by Studio staff is available in much of the Northeast. The Studio will provide crating and shipping estimates for more distant locations.



Maple



Walnut



Mahogany

**For info and pricing go to:**

[stephenprocter.com/shop](http://stephenprocter.com/shop)



### To commission custom work:

1. Submit an inquiry through the website or call (802) 277-0097.
2. We will respond and schedule a meeting time with Stephen to discuss the project.
3. During the meeting, Stephen will help you determine the vessel(s) and size(s) that will be right for your garden or other location. Photoshop mock-up services are available. On-site consultations are available on a fee basis.
4. Once we receive payment, we will provide an estimated turnaround time.
5. Direct delivery and installation service by Studio staff is available in much of the Northeast. The Studio will provide crating and shipping estimates for more distant locations.



*What makes Steve's work compelling is the organic nature of the pieces. They beg to be touched, whether inside or in the garden, they complement the spaces they inhabit."*

— Mary Lou G., Connecticut

*Our first Stephen pot instantly transformed the garden and the relationship of our cultivated garden to the wider landscape. She brings a breathing focal point that both grounds the garden and merges it with the surrounding woods and mountain."*

— Ingrid M., New Hampshire

*As a dramatic focal point within a simple woodland setting or a quiet place of visual rest in a riotous summer meadow, Stephen's vessels have become favorite additions to my landscape designs. The warm, earthy, colors, sensual shapes, and textures of Steve's work provide a welcome contrast in the garden — especially during New England's long winters."*

— Michaela H., Vermont



# STEPHEN PROCTER STUDIOS

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