

### **305 and 306 Conciliatory and Cautious Exploration**

*Conciliatory:* Intended to gain goodwill or favor, or to reduce hostility. *I offer up the dove and the hilt of my knife.*

*Cautious:* Careful to avoid potential problems or dangers. *I am present, and leading with my vulnerability, but I will not let go of my weapon. I still don't trust modern man or modern systems to protect me.*

*Exploration:* The action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about it.

*Confuse my collaboration with weakness at your own peril. I am still deciding whether you are friend or foe.*

These two figures echo my Artist Statement and possibly represent the end of my work on Warrior Women, at least for now. Why/how did I come to end with these two? Closure? A sense of completion, similar to what I feel at the end of kiln firings? Or the tension of contrast, as I welcome progress while mourning the distance left to travel?

At this writing, international forces are organizing increased assistance for Russia's war in Ukraine, which may mean hope for civilians on the ground. However, so much damage has already occurred. This war now looks like the worst indiscriminate civilian massacre in Europe since World War II.

*Conciliatory. But cautious.*

Between Afghanistan and COVID, and now Russia, I needed a hopeful jumping off place for what comes next. Instead, we are dealing with "The Big Lie," autocracy, and new conflict-based population migrations.

It continues to be children and women who pay the price.