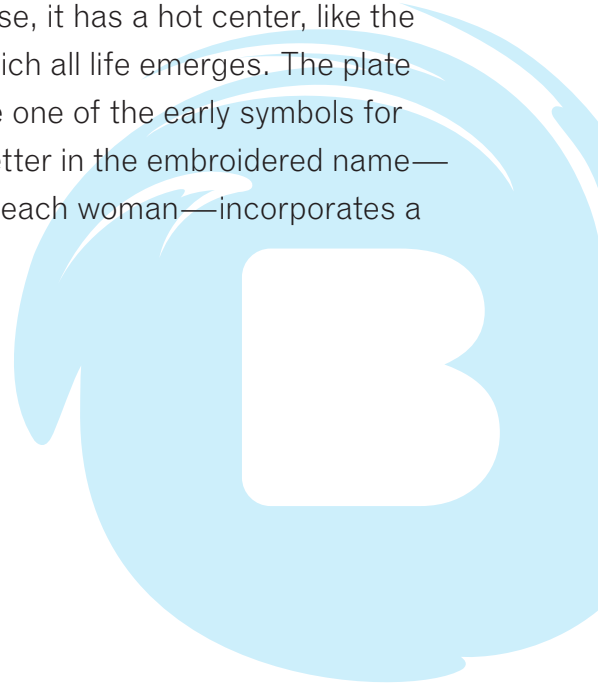


4025

Primordial Goddess

Judy Chicago (1980): The first place setting on the table is the Primordial Goddess, who represents the earliest point of human civilization, the point at which the Earth itself, and the creative principle, was seen as feminine. The plate is a nascent butterfly form, the wings not yet open. The butterfly motif appears in all the plates. In this case, it has a hot center, like the center of the Earth, or of oneself, the center of women from which all life emerges. The plate sits on a runner with animal skins and cowrie shells, which were one of the early symbols for woman and a primitive form of money. The illuminated capital letter in the embroidered name—which I designed for all the runners as another way of honoring each woman—incorporates a spiral, also an ancient symbol for woman.



For more information about these objects, be sure to visit www.brooklynmuseum.org