

Immediate Release: August 1, 2007
Kill Date: October 29, 2007
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***Raku Artist Joseph Woodford
Brings Primitive Elegance to the Scottsdale
5th Avenue Fine Art & Wine Festival***



Thunderbird Artists proudly names ceramic artist, Joseph Woodford, as the featured artist for the Scottsdale 5th Avenue Fine Art & Wine Festival, October 26th, 27th & 28th, 2007.



Joseph Woodford is a ceramic artist who lives in Chandler, AZ. Joseph fell in love with this form of art in high school and realized at that moment what he would do in his lifetime. His Raku art comes from expressions with clay that have an African, Japanese and Southwestern theme. "My work is a never ending road to improvement. I keep pushing myself in trying to create new things to make each piece unique."

Raku is a 16th century Japanese art form. Joseph takes a block of clay and goes through shaping the clay into different bowls and disks. He then adds textures very carefully to make each totem or vessel unique and to ensure that no two pieces are alike. The sculpted clay is then fired in a kiln at 1800 degrees, thus turning the clay into pottery. Joseph puts a glaze on each piece, which contains copper carbonate, and then places in a gas kiln firing again at 1800 degrees. Lastly, the piece is removed from the heat and covered to stop the oxygen from hitting the sculpture. Joseph states, "You must be careful as to when the cover must come off to obtain just the right rainbow of colors."

Joseph has won over 40 awards of excellence in ceramics. Thunderbird Artists is proud to share Woodford's wonderful collection, along with other high caliber potters, painters, bronze artists, glass, wood, metal and stone sculptors, jewelers and photographers from throughout the country and abroad.

The festival will take place on 5th Avenue, between Scottsdale Road and Goldwater Blvd. Hours are 10am to 5pm each day. Admission is \$2 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Parking is free all weekend.

Come visit the Scottsdale 5th Avenue Fine Art & Wine Festival and discover the uniqueness of Joseph Woodfords' sculptures, enjoy fine wine tasting and live musical entertainment.

