

THE GOVERNOR TIPS HIS HAT

2009 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts

Since 1974, the state's artists, filmmakers, presenters, musicians, and arts contributors have been recognized through the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, established by Gov. Bruce King and first lady Alice King. Past recipients of the award include Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablita Velarde, Cipriano Vigil, Bill Mauldin, Max Evans, Ali MacGraw, and Jack Loeffler.

This year the staff of *Pasatiempo*, *The New Mexican's* arts and entertainment magazine, is proud to be honored as a major contributor to the arts. The other tributees are Stephen Hansen of Las Cruces for sculpture; Tom Joyce of Santa Fe for blacksmithing and sculpture; Joseph Lonewolf of Santa Clara Pueblo for pottery; Carmella Padilla of Santa Fe for literary arts; Edward Vega of Albuquerque for sculpture; Elaine Wiggins Howe of Roswell as a major contributor to the arts; and William A. Miller of Santa Fe as a major contributor to the arts.

A reception honoring winners and an opening reception of an honorees' exhibit take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Governor's Gallery, fourth floor of the Capitol (corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and Paseo de Peralta), 476-2289. That's followed by an awards presentation ceremony from 5:15 to 7 p.m. at St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 W. Palace Ave., 476-5072. Both events are free and open to the public. The honorees' exhibit is on display through Dec. 4.



Nigel Noble

TOM JOYCE Forging his own destiny

Closer to home, the Rotary Foundation for the Arts in Santa Fe acknowledged Joyce as its Distinguished Artist of the Year in 2006. The following year, he was selected Artist of the Year by the Santa Fe Gallery Association and featured in a PBS documentary, *Craft in America*.

When asked by *Pasatiempo* about receiving this year's award for his contribution to blacksmithing and sculpture, Joyce remarked, "The award presents a clear message that the governor's office and the state of New Mexico are deeply dedicated to encouraging

artists, arts education, and philanthropy."

Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Joyce found joy in working with his hands, perhaps because his mother was a quilter and his father an amateur archaeologist. But in many ways, Joyce shaped his own destiny. He left high school to pursue his calling. "I was an honor student [at Mesa Vista High School in Ojo Caliente] and had been working toward graduating a year early when I discovered that New Mexico public schools did not honor two of my theology credits from previous years in Catholic school. I was required to stay another year. At 16, I had a strong feeling [blacksmithing] was my life's work and had confidence that, for me, the most meaningful education comes in all forms

of direct experience, not only compulsory education, so I set out on this path and created my own curriculum."

Joyce finds rewards in many aspects of his work: "daily practice and process, the historical precedence and conceptual relevance found in all materials that bring meaning to the work, the collaborative aspect of working with others, the satisfaction of working with one's hands, the feeling of reciprocal appreciation in finding homes for the work, and passing on to others the knowledge gained over years of experience."

He's now working on multiple projects, including sculpture, drawings, lithography, and commissioned work — "sculpture for the Joslyn Art Museum [in Nebraska], the Mint Museum of Art [in North Carolina], the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, and a series of sculptures for the Santa Fe Botanical Garden."

Asked what keeps him going in so many media over the years, Joyce was succinct. "Simply, I enjoy what I do." He added, "Having landed [in Santa Fe] from Oklahoma as a youngster, I cannot imagine another place so conducive and supportive to creativity than here. Although I travel the world lecturing and teaching, I'm always relieved to return to this culturally dynamic place — definitely a blessing to have found a home in this community."

— D.F.

Santa Fe sculptor, blacksmith, designer, and educator Tom Joyce is no stranger to special recognition and accolades. To name a few, in 1989, he received the highest honorary fellowship into the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths based in London. It was the first time the fellowship had been awarded to a non-Brit since it was incorporated in 1325. In 1996, he was given the honorary award for Outstanding Contribution to the Art and Science of Blacksmithing by the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of America and was subsequently interviewed for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art Oral History Program. He was a 2003 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation fellowship.