

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tinkertown Museum Opens For 2005 Season

Sandia Park Museum's 22nd Season Starts April 1st

Upcoming season features ongoing celebration of Tinkering
Folk Art is alive along the Turquoise Trail in New Mexico

SANDIA PARK, New Mexico (March 1, 2005) - Carla Ward, Co-founder of Tinkertown Museum, announced today the opening of the 22nd season of Tinkertown Museum on April 1, 2005 along with the season's ongoing event program. Tinkertown Museum is open 7 days a week from 9AM to 6 PM from April 1st through the end of October.

In launching the new season, Ms. Ward proclaimed the beginning of another year of celebrating tinkering and the life's work of Ross Ward, famed painter, sculptor and humorist. Carla and Ross Ward jointly operated Tinkertown Museum until Ross succumbed to Alzheimer's and died in 2002. Carla Ward carries on the Museum's rich tradition of folk art as its Executive Director.

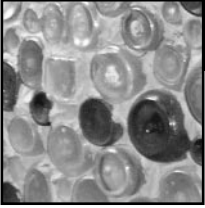
Ms. Ward announced three special events at the Museum. Ross Ward Day will be held April 5th to honor the life, artistic work and memory of Tinkertown's creative force. Visitors to the Museum are encouraged to bring remembrances of Ross to contribute to an ongoing project to chronicle the life and work of this amazing New Mexican artist.

Tinkertown will celebrate Mother's Day on May 8th offering free admission to all mothers who are escorted by a child. The Gift Shop will offer kids the chance to buy Mom a special reminder of their day together.

Dads will be featured on June 19, Father's Day. All fathers accompanied by a child will be admitted to the Museum free of charge.

Tinkertown Museum, one of New Mexico's most renowned folk art environments, was begun as a hobby by Ross Ward over 30 years ago. Over 50,000 glass bottles form rambling walls that surround a 22-room museum including a livery stable, old-fashioned storefronts, and wacky western memorabilia. Featured by the Museum is an animated miniature wood-carved 1880's Western Town and Three Ring Circus with 4,000 hand carved figures. The Museum collection and grounds has captured the imagination of





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more than 250,000 visitors. Children of all ages enjoy the many “penny arcade” machines including “Otto” the automated one-man band. The Museum gift shop offers unique arts and crafts objects from around the planet, as well as refreshments and advice on how to enjoy a visit to the Turquoise Trail.

Tinkertown is located on the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway (www.turquoise-trail.org) on the way to Sandia Crest. Take I-40 20 minutes east of Albuquerque to exist 175. Head north on NM 14 six miles to NM 536, then left 1.5 miles. The Museum is open every day from 9:00am-6:00pm April 1st to November 1. Admission for adults is \$3.00, Seniors \$2.50, Children 4 - 16 \$1.00, and children under 4 are free. To discover more about Tinkertown Museum’s rich heritage visit www.tinkertown.com.

Press contact: Carla Ward or Megan Ward, Tinkertown Museum, PO Box 303 Sandia Park, NM, 505-281-5233, tinker4U@tinkertown.com.

