



Jansen Designs

Fine Gourd Art

Newsletter

September 2003

www.jansendesigns.com

Summer is technically at an end, but you wouldn't know it by the thermometer: 100 degrees by 10:30am! Oh well, Ken and I left Oregon for some sunshine and warm weather, so I shouldn't complain that we've gotten just what we wanted.

For many of you, Indian Summer will shortly give way to Fall, and the leaves will begin changing to their magnificent colors. Growing up in New Jersey I was witness to this yearly, but took for granted what was happening around me. Since moving to Puerto Rico, we have been delighted by the tropical flora surrounding us; however, I found that I really missed the "changing of the colors."

One of the first [higüeras](#) I cut was a bowl using a Maple Leaf pattern (of my design). Ken rolled his eyes – it just didn't fit in with our boat décor and seemed out of place in the Caribbean. Never mind, I said, I like it. We would bring it out whenever company came, filling it with chips, dinner rolls, or whatever, and our guests invariably commented on the bowl. Would I be making more? As a matter of fact, when I applied to become an Artesana I brought this bowl, along with several other pieces, for judging. I did not immediately pull it out of my bag for fear the theme might not be appropriate in the tropics. When the judge asked if I had any other higüeras, out came the Autumn Leaves bowl and he flipped! I believe that's what cinched the deal!



We have continued making "Autumn Leaves" bowls, and have created variations: different sizes; several with handles. The "Harvest Basket" at the top is one example. These pieces are very attractive as centerpieces, and, as with the majority of our pieces, they are meant to be *used*. You may see the complete line in our website, under the heading "[Gourds, Seasonal Collection.](#)"

Right now Ken and I are preparing to attend another show at the Plaza del Caribe in Ponce, October 1st through 5th. If you are in the vicinity, this is a wonderful opportunity to see the works of some of the top Artesans on the island.



Congratulations to Cecelia Salazar Arroyo of Milpitas, CA, last month's winner of our monthly Mini Gourd contest!

If you have not already done so, you may enter to win when you visit our website, www.jansendesigns.com.

Andrea and Ken