



Handpainted Gourds, Figurative Art and Home Decor

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I brought my best pieces to show off, and boy, what a hit! The Egg and Carousel blew people away. If you haven't seen it yet, here's a link to the page I devoted to the [Safari Carousel](#).

Summer 2008 Newsletter  
Well, it was my first big (non-gourd) Stateside show, in Montclair, N.J., in June. Had to buy a tent and everything. That may sound odd, but when artists are invited to shows in Puerto Rico, the organizers supply pretty much everything except the 6 ft. table each artist is allowed. So, purchasing and then decorating a 10'x10' tent was the first order of business when I returned home. The organizers, [Rose Squared Productions](#), put on a fabulous show, and the caliber of artists was incredible.



Most unfortunately, while I was in NJ, our beloved Czar passed away. [Click here](#) for a tribute to our own salty dog.

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So, I am planning on spending a good portion of this summer with family in N.J., as I'm combining business with pleasure. And while I miss the Captain, Czar and yes, even *Ruff Life*, I have been doing my usual U.S. thing: *Eating*. Subs. Gyros. Bagels. N.Y. style pizza, and no, I don't mop off the grease! I'm enjoying alot of things not seen in P.R., but the amount of choices makes my head spin. Honestly, do we really NEED 500 varieties of crackers?



Mom and I had a lobster feast on her 81st...doesn't she look great?  
While enjoying lunch by the water, it figures that I'd see a duplicate of my own home cruising by, making me homesick. But the smile on Mom's face makes it worthwhile.

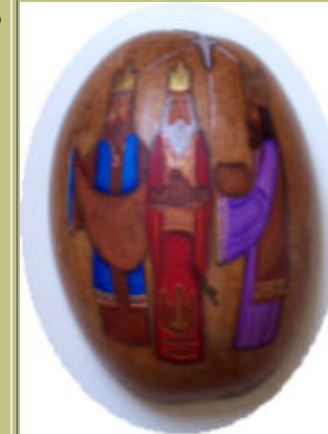


BELOW: This was something new for me: a customer requested I add color to an higuera which they had owned for over 15 years. Turned out it was a beautiful Three Kings piece, carved by an artist friend, Jose Pelegrina, and I was nervous about working on someone else's work. But as one former student exclaimed, just before painting some delicate linework, "...with God and the Virgin..." , I swallowed, repeated a student's words and took the plunge. The result came out better than I'd hoped, and the customer was thrilled.



Before (left) and after (unfortunately I had started to paint before I remembered to take a photo). The gourd was worn, and the skin had started to peel off (that's why we spend so much time sanding). But the carving was exquisite. One king held a *jamaca*, or hammock, another a woven basket, with such detail! The third held a Cemi, an island icon carved in stone. I didn't want to cover Jose's beautiful carving...so I just enhanced the areas with a light stain. Click on the photos for larger views.

The newsletter *tries* to come out quarterly, but add me to your 'Favorites' list, just in case, and check periodically for new pieces.  
*Thank you for visiting.*



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