

THE GOLDEN GOURD

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The Gourdeous Path

by Sala Faruq

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How did I end up on the path to gourdeous? Well, over the years I have tried drawing, painting, screen printing and etching but nothing excites me as much as creating art with gourds. After taking some time off in 2003, I dedicated myself to gourd crafting. I've been producing gourd creations ever since.

My primary goal on this path is to capture the essence of the medium and transform it into elegant works of art. Additionally, I am challenged to create works that go beyond the traditional confines of what gourd art is.

I mainly design decorative figurative pieces and vessels. My figurative pieces are an affirmation of my cultural heritage. *Beauty Is Here Because I'm Here* (see Fig. 1) represents a mix of the West African cultures of the Asante, Ejagham and Yoruba peoples.



1



2

My aim with vessels like *Spirit Bottle* (see Fig. 2) is to create an experience for the viewer that blurs the boundaries between gourd and ceramic art.

In December 2006, I started working on a line of distinctive gourd jewelry after being captivated by the book, "1000 Rings: Inspiring Adornments for the Hand." With my jewelry, I want to show the beauty and versatility of the gourd. *Alma* (see

(Continued on page 3)

You may want to have your calendars handy

Announcing a show! YOU'RE INVITED!!!!

Organic Vessels at Ave 50 StudioOpening April 14th, 2007
from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.Featured Artist are Pat Boyd, Sally Rosenberg,
Larry and Judy Cunningham, Howard Swerdloff,
Larry McClelland and Leigh Adams131 N. Avenue 50
Highland Park
323 258 14356 Artists' views of their favorite organic vessel
will be shown from April 14th - May 7th at Ave
50 Studio in Highland Park, CA.Workshops will be held throughout the show,
check the website for specifics!<http://www.avenue50studio.com/index.shtml>*(Continued from page 1)*

Fig. 3) is my first attempt at creating gourd jewelry.

There are limitless possibilities waiting for me as I travel along the gourdeous path. Though the path is not always clear, I am home. For I feel a wholeness of spirit and the warm rays of the golden gourd on my face.

Sala Faruq has a B.F.A. and a M.A. in Arts Management. Her gourd creations can be found in select stores, galleries and online at :

www.afrooriginals.com



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FIFTH ANNUAL GOURD ART FESTIVAL
AND
GOURD SALE
MAY 19 & 20, 2007

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