

The seventh annual Santa Fe International Folk Art Market took place on July 9, 10 and 11. Some 170 folk artists, their sponsors and representatives of cooperatives came from 51 countries to display and sell their amazing handicrafts. Anatolian Artisans participated once again by sponsoring a traditional artist from Turkey. This year we were proud to sponsor the master ceramic artist from Kutahya, Mr. Mehmet Gursoy.

The event has become the largest international folk art market in the US, and possibly in the world, attracting more than twenty thousand folk art lovers from all over the country. Its mission is to "foster economic and cultural sustainability for folk artists and folk art worldwide and to create intercultural exchange opportunities that unite the peoples of the world."

Year after year we witness the realization of this mission. The market is a great opportunity for folk artists to receive international recognition for their art, generate income and have a chance to share experiences with artists from around the world. Interaction among artists fosters understanding between cultures.

For our artist Mehmet Gursoy it was a nostalgic visit. He visited Santa Fe twenty years ago on the invitation of the great folklorist Prof. Henry Glassie for a demonstration of his art at the Turkish Traditional Art exhibition at the Museum of International Folk Art. Museum Director Charlene Cerny and the former curator Karen Duffy gave Mehmet a warm welcome back.

Mehmet Gursoy's work attracted a lot of attention from visitors. They admired his art and the centuries old Turkish pottery tradition.

[Click here](#) for pictures from the 2010 Santa Fe Folk Art Market.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Mehmet Gursoy and his art.