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**Santa Fe Community College to Host  
Uzbekistan Master Ceramicists  
Thursday, September 22  
Fine Arts Center, Rooms 732-734**

SANTA FE, NM – Santa Fe Community College’s GROW Foundation welcomes master ceramicists from Uzbekistan for an educational exchange and pottery demonstration in the Fine Arts Center on Thursday, September 22, beginning at 9:45. This is an extraordinary opportunity to interact with Central Asian Uzbek artisans and observe their craft. The public is welcome.

The Uzbekistan visit is a collaboration of SFCC’s GROW Foundation with the City of Santa Fe Sister City Program, the Council on International Relations and the United States Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. The goals of the project, as established by the Department of State, are to provide participants with the opportunity to:

- Examine the history, presentation, conservation and education of traditional arts in the U.S.;
- Connect with institutions and individuals involved in the presentation, conservation and education of American cultural heritage; and
- Evaluate the impact of traditional arts on community-building and civic development.

“This is the first time our international visitor program has hosted foreign guests for an instructional demonstration – a sharing of knowledge – as part of their tour,” said Jeff Case, Ph.D., treasurer of the SFCC GROW Foundation and chair of the Council on International Relations Faculty-Student Committee. “The Uzbek artists are open and engaging, and want to learn from SFCC students and faculty. It’s a outstanding educational exchange event that’s mutually beneficial.”

Beginning at 9:45 a.m. in Fine Arts Center Room 732, visit Clarence Cruz’ Pueblo Pottery class followed at 10:30 a.m. in Fine Arts Center Room 734 by James Marshall’s class for a throwing demonstration by students and Uzbek master ceramicists and showing of a documentary from Uzbekistan.

The Uzbekistan delegation is part of a larger effort to reconnect with Santa Fe’s Sister Cities, with places far away and with cultures that we need to understand more, said Case.

**FEATURED ARTISTS**

**Inom Ablakulov**, Master Ceramicist, Ceramics Department, Republican Art College

Mr. Ablakulov is a ninth generation master ceramicist, carrying on the tradition and trade from his grandfather and father, Mr. Numon Ablakulov. The Ablakulov family creates pieces representative of Urgut ceramics, which is known for its brown glaze technique and screeching method. Mr. Ablakulov wants to meet master ceramicists and ceramicist association representatives to learn about historical and modern ceramics arts education. He also hopes to visit libraries, universities, and art schools.

**Odilbek Matchanov**, Master Ceramicist, Khorezm Ceramics

Mr. Matchanov is a multi-generation master ceramicist trained by his father, master ceramicist Mr. Raimberdi Matchanov, with the specialized knowledge of traditional Khorezm ceramics, famous for geometrical and floral ornaments. Mr. Matchanov has made a large contribution to the restoration of architectural monuments and their many ceramic ornaments. Primarily, he creates traditional tableware and architectural tiles. Mr. Matchanov wants to meet master ceramicists and visit traditional ceramic centers, explore arts education and training and visit world heritage sites and museums, particularly those focusing on textiles and ethnography. Further, Mr. Matchanov would like to meet with ceramicist association representatives to establish future exchange.

**Alisher Rakhimov**, Master Ceramicist, Rakhimov Ceramic Studio

Mr. Rakhimov is a sixth generation master ceramicist, trained by his grandfather, master ceramicist Mr. Mukhitdin Rakhimov. Relying on the experiences of his grandfather and father, Mr. Rakhimov has worked on historical chronicles of Uzbek pottery art. He created a series of wares: glossy ceramics of the Kushan, Samanids and Temurids periods. The Rakhimov family presents exhibitions on a regular basis based on traditional designs and techniques. They also operate a school teaching pottery technique to students from different regions of Uzbekistan. Mr. Rakhimov wants to meet with master potters and art historians and visit studios and museums across the United States.

**Firdavs Yusupov**, Master Ceramicist, Rishtan Ceramic Factory

Mr. Yusupov is a multi-generation ceramicist trained by his father, master ceramicist Sharofiddin Yusupov. Mr. Yusupov's studio is in Rishtan, one of Uzbekistan's biggest ceramic centers, and well known for using blue and white colors. Mr. Yusupov creates works in traditional Rishtan style starting with the 15th century as an imitation of Chinese porcelain and incorporating traditional motifs and ornaments, and is known for brush painting technique. His new collections represent a revival of the old Uzbek style. Mr. Yusupov wants to meet with master ceramicists and visit various pottery studios and ceramic centers in the U.S. During the course of this program, Mr. Yusupov would like to explore arts education and training and visit museums.

**Clarence Cruz**, Potter

Mr. Cruz is Tewa, from the Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh. He earned a BFA in Art Studio from the University of New Mexico. His works are about regeneration of a historic representation of pottery and the bond that is created between land and people, which allows expression of the world at various times, places and spaces. He creates the traditional pottery of San Juan and Micaceous pottery, with Potsuwii incising styles. He is interested in the physical challenge of gathering the materials from their natural environment, which he believes creates an intimate connection with the material and the land. His pottery are fired outside using traditional methods: an open firing, where the flames are allowed to touch the pots; an enclosed firing, where the flames are not touching the pots; or a reduction firing, where the pots are turned black. He teaches graduate and undergraduate level pottery classes at the University of New Mexico and is an instructor of Micaceous pottery at Poeh Arts for the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

**James Marshall**, Faculty (Art, Ceramics), Santa Fe Community College

Mr. Marshall's initial experience with the arts began while living with a Native American tribe, the Quiche, in Guatemala where he apprenticed with potters during his two-year stint in the Peace Corps. After studying ceramics at Fredonia State University, in New York, he later received an MFA in sculpture from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where he received a series of Rackham Block Grants. His teaching experience includes the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Grove City College, PA; University of Bloomsburg, PA; Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York; and the University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. James has been head of ceramics at SFCC as a half-time associate professor of art for the past eight years where he continues his teaching in Ceramics and 3D Design. James continues to develop his professional career as an actively exhibiting artist and his work is in more than 200 public and private collections nationally and internationally. He is currently represented by Winterowd Fine Art in Santa Fe, Bentley Projects in Phoenix and Sherry Leedy Contemporary in Kansas City, Kan.

**GROW Santa Fe Community College Foundation** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports the college's mission to help students succeed and to serve our community through advocacy and fundraising. Please visit [www.sfcc.edu/GROW\\_Foundation](http://www.sfcc.edu/GROW_Foundation).

*For more than 25 years, Santa Fe Community College has been the gateway to success for individuals and the community by providing affordable, high quality educational programs that serve the social, cultural, technological and economic needs of a diverse community. The college serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. For further information, visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000. Follow us: [SFCC on Facebook](#), [SFCC on Twitter](#).*

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