



New Mexico Travel
albuquerque journal's tourism coverage

Subscribe | Logo

Apps   

EVENTS OUTDOORS WINE & DINE CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT HOLLYWOOD NM DESTINATIONS

Glove art reflects American spirit

A1 Art Culture New Mexico News News UpFront

Like Jaymes Dudding and 24,089 others like this.



Artist Jaymes Dudding used leather gloves discarded by wildland firefighters, including the Granite Mountain Hotshots, to make this tribute to the 19 fallen Granite Mountain team members. It's Dudding's latest artwork made using found gloves. (Dean Hanson/Journal)

SHARE

-  Twitter 0
-  Facebook 0
-  Google+ 0
-  LinkedIn 0
-  Email this article
-  Print this article

By Leslie Linthicum / Of the Journal | 6 hours ago

JEMEZ SPRINGS – When you start finding old gloves by the curbs, on sidewalks, along grassy roadsides, and you start bending down to pick up those gloves and examine them and stuff them in your pocket or throw them in the back seat of your car, the law of synchronicity kicks in: Once you start finding gloves, gloves start finding you.

So it was for Jaymes Dudding, an art professor at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in the town of Chickasha. Dudding found gloves all over town – lots of work gloves blown off the backs of oil field trucks, welding gloves, cotton gardening gloves and soft wool winter gloves.

He once found a glove that was still holding onto a bloodied finger bandage. And once he spotted a discarded glove, went to investigate and found that it was smoking. He still wonders decades later about the story of those gloves.

Dudding, a sculptor who specializes in ceramics, stashed the gloves away and kept finding more. It felt like they were waiting for something. But what would that something be?

And why gloves?

"I work with my hands, and hands are really important to me," Dudding told me the other day. "Laying there on the sidewalk, gloves just have a gesture. They take on the form of the hand that used them. It's like they're saying, 'Pick me up.' "

Dudding was rooming with another artist, and one day in 1994 they got to talking and his roommate revealed a secret and Dudding revealed one too.

"He was collecting wire and I didn't know it, and I was collecting gloves and he didn't know it," Dudding said.

They got out their stashes and started a creative conversation that resulted in an exhibit, "The Glove and Wire Show."

And so began an important sideline of Dudding's career as an artist. He's made about 50 sculptures using old gloves. After teaching in Chickasha for 28 years, Dudding moved back home to New Mexico.



Advertisement

Enjoy the Regal Treatment!
FREE POPCORN (840Z)
& FREE SOFT DRINK (320Z)

Nov. 15-21 with paid ticket and loyalty card.

REGAL CINEMAS
WINROCK STADIUM 16
IMAX & RPX
GRAND OPENING NOV. 15

Today's EJournal



Read the eJournal

- OR GET THE APP -

- iPhone/iPad/iPod
- Android
- Windows

NOT A SUBSCRIBER?

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Annual Events

APRIL

Gathering of Nations Pow Wow

JULY

Roswell UFO Festival
Traditional Spanish Market

AUGUST

Hatch Chile Festival
Santa Fe Indian Market
The Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

SEPTEMBER

New Mexico State Fair
The Whole Enchilada Fiesta

OCTOBER

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta™

NOVEMBER

Festival of the Cranes

Upfront

Leslie Linthicum

Sundays and Thursdays

He kept finding gloves, and this summer an important collection of gloves found him.

Dudding lives in Rio Rancho and teaches art at the Walatowa High Charter School at Jemez Pueblo and is a member of the Jemez Fine Art gallery, an artists cooperative in Jemez Springs.

On the last day of May, a downed power line sparked a fire up the road from the gallery near Thompson Ridge and it quickly became another one of New Mexico's raging summer wildfires. Wildland firefighting crews from around the West set up on the fire's perimeter and attacked it night and day. At one point in mid June, 20 Hotshot crews were on the fire.

Crews fighting forest fires wield pickaxes and shovels and chain saws. And they wear out their gloves fast, often chewing up a pair a day.

As the fire burned and used gloves got tossed into piles at the fire camp, the fire's information officer, Margo Whitt, made her way through Jemez Springs once a day to deliver updates. Inside the Jemez Fine Art gallery she spotted one of Dudding's sculptures, "The Hero's Journey." It's a ceramic bird riding on the back of centaur – all covered in a mosaic of used gloves.

Dudding told me people who know of his glove collecting often find gloves and save them for him. But as the Thompson Ridge Fire was winding down, Whitt delivered the biggest trove of gloves Dudding had ever received – eight trash bags containing hundreds of gloves, mostly leather, some stained in gas or soot, others worn through and all smelling strongly of wood smoke.

Dudding dumped the gloves at his house and started trying to decide what to do with them. A tragedy in Arizona made that decision for him.

The Thompson Ridge Fire started on May 31, and when it was finally mopped up weeks later it had burned through 24,000 acres, including large parts of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Early in the fire's life, one particular crew of Hotshots had worked through the night to save historic cabins and old-growth trees in the Caldera. That crew – the Granite Mountain Hotshots from Prescott, Ariz. – added their used gloves to the discard pile.

The Granite Mountain team moved on to fight other fires. And on June 30, 19 of the team's members were overtaken by flames as they were battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona. They deployed their fire shelters, but none of the 19 survived.

When Dudding learned of the tragedy, he said, "I knew I wanted to do a memorial to the firefighters that died. I knew I wanted a flag, and I wanted fire somehow involved."

The piece Dudding settled on is a large flag made completely out of the firefighters' gloves. They form the stripes, cleaner ones standing in for white and grimmer ones standing in the red. Where the stars would be, the brightest yellow gloves make a glowing flame against the backdrop of a bright quatrefoil.

Dudding displayed the flag at a fundraiser for the Placitas volunteer fire department, and the piece is now in a fitting place – the U.S. Forest Service's Jemez Ranger Station, just down the road from where the gloves were used. Dudding is looking into whether the flag might find a permanent home in Prescott.

Dudding has always thought of his glove sculptures as paying homage to hard work, and he told me the glove flag takes that tribute to another level.

"It has to do with the American spirit and what those men and women do to help other people," he said. "The work they do, it's a patriotic gesture."

UpFront is a daily front-page news and opinion column. Comment directly to Leslie at 823-3914 or llinthicum@abqjournal.com. Go to www.abqjournal.com/letters/new to submit a letter to the editor.



Artist Jaymes Dudding at the Jemez Fine Art gallery in Jemez Springs with a sculpture called "The Hero's Journey" made with discarded gloves. (Dean Hanson/Journal)



Dudding used more than 100 gloves collected during the Thompson Ridge Fire. He's been collecting gloves for decades. (Dean Hanson/Journal)



Recent stories by Leslie Linthicum
Email Leslie

"Thanks to recent excursions to Sophia, Marquez and Ambrosia Lake, I believe I've now been to every town in New Mexico -- with the exception of Arch. I hope to continue to tackle just about everything. Politics, tribes, DWI, rural stuff, it'll all be in the mix."

Joline Gutierrez Krueger

Mondays and Fridays

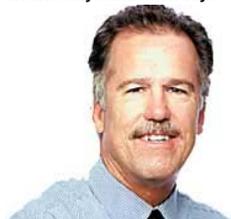


Recent stories by Joline Gutierrez Krueger
Email Joline

"My biggest reward comes from being allowed into the worlds of the people I write about and from those readers who have come to know me as someone they can call anytime."

Thomas J. Cole

Wednesdays and Saturdays



Recent stories by Thomas J. Cole
Email Thom

"Try to think of me as your ombudsman, someone to investigate your complaints against government. I'll request the documents, do the interviews. Contact me at my e-mail address."

Facebook Activity

Like [Jaymes Dudding](#) and 24,089 others like this.

Five Dead; Teen Accused In Killing Spree
297 people recommend this.

ABQJournal Sports • Alford Revered in Hometown
73 people recommend this.

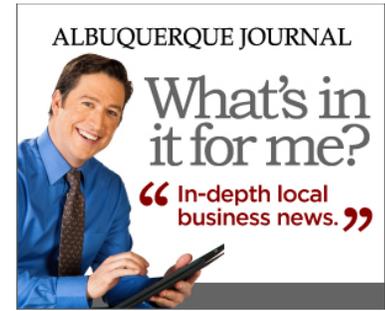
Bicyclist deserved better
34 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

Advertisement

SUGGESTED READING:

Santa Fe crew worked with Prescott Hotshots	Santa Fe crew worked with Prescott Hotshots	Impact of Arizona fire tragedy cuts deep in	UPDATED: Thompson Ridge Fire now 60
---	---	---	-------------------------------------



COMMENTS

Note: Readers can use their Facebook identity for online comments or can use Hotmail, Yahoo or AOL accounts via the "Comment using" pulldown menu. You may send a news tip or an anonymous comment directly to the reporter, click here.

 Add a comment...

Post to Facebook Posting as Curt Trahan (Not you?) **Comment**

Warning: <http://www.abqjournal.com/?p=300504> is unreachable.

Facebook social plugin

CONTACT THE JOURNAL

- Staff directory
- Submit a news tip
- Email a reporter
- 505-823-3800
- Send a letter to the editor
- Submit an obituary

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

- Account services
- Subscribe to the Journal
- Recover username/password
- 505-823-4444
- Access our archives
- Place a classified ad
- Advertise in the Journal
- Privacy policy

RELATED SITES & PARTNERS

- Press Pass
- Newspapers in Education
- Albuquerque Publishing Co.
- Mountain View Telegraph
- Rio Rancho Observer
- Valencia County News-Bulletin
- El Defensor Chieftain

Copyright © 2013 Albuquerque Journal | Albuquerque, N.M.