



Arkansas Eternal

6 x 6 x 18 inches

Wood Carving

Price available upon request

John Collier

Bio

John is a native Arkansan who currently lives in the woods of Winslow with his wife, Kathy, two sons, James and Jeremiah, and three wonderful dogs. He is a practiced woodcarver using a Scandinavian technique based on traditional Sloyd greenwood carving. He primarily focuses on spoons and bowls, but will tinker around with other woodenware items while using hand tools.

Artist Statement

This is a ladle I started long ago. It is made from a giant 150+ y.o. black cherry tree that I have made most of my wares from for the last couple of years. As I have worked the wood, I have mused many times about the history of that single tree. Those musings turned to the craft of spoon carving and its archetypal nature, and then to my personal heritage of being a native Arkansan, just like the cherry tree itself, connecting me in a profound way.

There are many small details of significance in this one piece.

There are 52 small community/town/city names Kolrosed into the wood. Some of the names are associated with some of the best-known Arkansans. Some of the names are grouped together thematically.

There's a happy row on the bowl with Daisy, Sunset, Friendship, Success, Romance, Twist, Delight and Paris.

The row below includes some of our towns with problematic or deep historical importance.

There's a row for quirky and fictitious towns.

One row I associate with Black history including Elaine.

One with Native American names.

And one with Nature-themed names.

And there are names interspersed that have personal significance to me.

There is light sapwood at the top that seems to deepen and concentrate into the heartwood toward the end of the bowl.

There is a diamond relief carved into the top of the handle with a buzzard effigy carved on the back whose beak it hangs by.

This one spoon carries so much meaning to me, and may very well be my most meaningful artistic endeavor to date. The base is cherry purchased from the late Huland Nations.

The stick is shag bark hickory.