



Ross J. Ward
photo: Robert Arnold

Ross Ward was born to paint, carve and tinker. As a boy growing up in the midwest, he was captivated by the tiny villages, farms and circuses created by "spare time carvers." His own miniature world began with circus figures carved while in junior high school -- now on display at the museum. He began carving the first figures for the turn-of-the-century general store in 1962.

Far more than an impressive collection of miniatures and memorabilia of all kinds, Tinkertown is a testimony to following one's dreams. With Ross' untimely death in 2002 at age 62 from early-onset Alzheimer's Disease, his wife, Carla continues to share their museum/imaginarium with visitors from around the world.

"The show must go on!"

~ Ross J Ward



Tinkertown is located on the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway in Sandia Park on New Mexico Highway 536, on the way to the Sandia Crest. Take exit 175 north off of I-40. After exiting I-40, take Highway 14 six miles north through Cedar Crest and turn left of Highway 536, the road to Sandia Peak Ski Area and Sandia Crest. Tinkertown is 1.5 miles on the left. Tinkertown is just 20 minutes from Albuquerque.

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P.O. Box 303, 121 Sandia Crest Road, Sandia Park, New Mexico 87047

Visit

Tinkertown Museum

Explore the Old West in Miniature!

EST. 1983



Ross J. Ward's Life Work. One of New Mexico's most renowned Folk Art Environments.

OPEN DAILY

April 1st to October 31st

9AM to 6PM

last admission sold at 5:30pm

Group Tours Available!



TripAdvisor names Tinkertown as a TOP TEN small museum in the USA.



facebook.com/Tinkertown

WELCOME TO TINKERTOWN!

It took Ross Ward over forty years to carve, collect and lovingly construct what is now Tinkertown Museum.

His miniature wood-carved figures were first part of a traveling exhibit, driven to county fairs and carnivals in the 1960's and '70's. Today, over 50,000 glass bottles form rambling walls that surround a 22 room museum. Wagon wheels, old-fashioned store fronts and wacky western memorabilia make Tinkertown's exterior as much a museum as the wonders within.

"I did all this while you were watching TV"
~ Ross J. Ward

Inside, the magic of animation takes over. The inhabitants of a raucous little western town animate to hilarious life. Under the big-top, diminutive circus performers challenge tigers and defy gravity while the Fat Lady fans herself and a polar bear teeter-totters.

Throughout, eccentric collections of Americana (wedding cake couples, antique tools, dolls, bullet pencils...) fill Tinkertown's winding hallways. Otto the One-Man-Band and Esmerelda, the Fortune Teller need only a quarter to play a tune or predict your future. Through a doorway and across a ramp waits a big-sized surprise: a 35 foot antique wooden sailboat that braved a ten year voyage around the world.

Ever a work in progress, Tinkertown is ready to inspire your imagination and awaken your creative spirit. Visit it soon!!



Otto, playing music of yesterday.



Under the Big Top at Tinkertown.



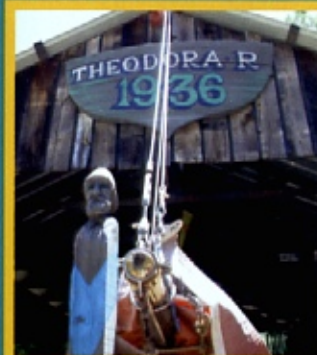
"Set your watch back 80 years."



"This is that place your friends told you not to miss!"



Life in the Western Town.



A boat that sailed around the world.



For 25¢ Esmerelda will tell your fortune!