

**HERKIMER COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
c/o Herkimer County Community College  
Reservoir Rd., Herkimer, NY 13350**

**RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

**SUBJECT: PEN & INK ARTIST, POTTER AMONG CRAFTERS AT  
30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**

**SOURCE: Jan Fuhrer, Development Program Specialist  
866-0300, ext. 8269**

Herkimer, NY—The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 11 & 12 at Herkimer County Community College. Among the 140 artisans featured in this year's juried show and sale is pen and ink artist David Oster, Utica.

Oster, who refers to himself as a "big local history buff" is a self-taught artist who enjoys creating pen and ink drawings of local landmarks. "My drawings feature both urban and rural landmarks from Barneveld to Little Falls and Cooperstown," Oster said. He has drawn a series of farms along Route 5S, mansions in Utica and Little Falls, as well as historic buildings throughout the Mohawk Valley. His work is all freehand, and he does not use computer renderings or straight edges.

Oster said while he has visited the Herkimer Fair several times, this will be his first year as an exhibitor. "I'm looking forward to being in the Fair, as I recall it is huge show," Oster said. "I participate in about 20 shows per year, traveling from Albany to Rochester." Oster sells both original drawings and limited edition prints, which are matted and signed.

Also new to the Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair this year is Dennis DeStefanis of Dragon's Den Pottery, Clinton. DeStefanis' work consists of both high fire and low fire processes, specializing in atmospheric firings such as raku, pit fire and salt glazing. All work is handcrafted, one-of-a-kind. DeStefanis said many pieces are thrown on a kick wheel then altered. "I also employ various hand building techniques in my body of work," he said. "I have a large studio with six kilns, offering a variety of firing opportunities."

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DeStefanis shows his work in galleries in Cooperstown, Old Forge, Saratoga Springs and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. His pottery includes vases, platters, covered jars, rice bowls and more.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Fair will also showcase the hand-crafted jewelry of Joan DeSimone and Bob Culver of Sun Dance Creations, Avoca, NY. DeSimone and Culver are metalsmiths/jewelers who specialize in nature and wildlife designs. They offer a diverse selection of wildlife, nature and sci-fi jewelry in metals including sterling silver, bronze, copper and niobium. Many designs incorporate precious or semi-precious stones. They produce earrings, necklaces, pins, bracelets, money clips and more, and will also do most types of custom work.

This year's show and sale will also include artisans exhibiting furniture, folk art, photography, leather products, woodcrafts, handbags, clothing and more. The show runs 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday on the HCCC campus. Admission is \$4. Plenty of free parking is available.

The Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair is sponsored by the Herkimer County College Foundation. Proceeds benefit student scholarships at HCCC.

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FOR MEDIA ONLY—FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KATHERINE MONTANO,  
866-0300 OR 888-GO 4-HCCC, EXT. 8259.

#### PHOTO OUTLINES:

Photo 1: Pen & Ink Artist—Pen & Ink Illustrations by David Oster, Utica will be on exhibit at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair to be held November 11 & 12 at Herkimer County Community College. The Fair runs 10-5 Saturday and 10-4 Sunday. Sponsored by the Herkimer County College Foundation, proceeds benefit scholarships at HCCC.

Photo 2: Dragon's Den Pottery—Dennis DeStefanis of Dragon's Den Pottery, Clinton will be among 140 artisans exhibiting their wares at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair to be held November 11 & 12 at Herkimer County Community College. The Fair runs 10-5 Saturday and 10-4 Sunday. Sponsored by the Herkimer County College Foundation, proceeds benefit scholarships at HCCC.