



For Immediate Release

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**There's An Art to Having Fun!**

**October 3-4, 2009  
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Cottonwood Park – Richardson, TX  
Free Admission, Free Parking, Free Shuttle**

**Fall 2009 Featured Artist – Michael Madzo**

Difficult to describe, Michael Madzo's artwork speaks for itself in luminous hues and vivid, often-times whimsical subjects. His trademark technique of sewing bits of his paintings together attracts attention both for its symbolism and for the rich texture it adds to the works. Madzo's artwork is a synthesis of both traditional and textile art. "It just...happened one day," he says thoughtfully, "I needed to join two sections together, and had tried everything else. So I thought I'd try sewing." Collage was the result. In assimilating materials at hand, the artist created something new.

Many of Madzo's images depict personae and creatures that are at once fanciful, grotesque, and heroic, and, at the same time, communicate a compassion and empathy that results in a haunting impression.

One of the most striking details of Madzo's work is a specific type of eye. We see and experience with our physical eye, and then there is a spiritual eye. In Madzo's work it is the spiritual eye. Madzo states, "This is an eye that is always looking back. I see the figures in my paintings as someone at the end of a fantastic journey."

Madzo's figures speak chapters to anyone willing to spend time contemplating them. And where does Madzo go within himself and what are his thoughts when he encounters the body of his work, the living work, surrounding him in his studio? "It's the mystery", says Madzo, "It's looking for liquid moments in this otherwise solid and stiff world. It's a function of the artist. We learn how to go to the formless plain. I put the invisible and the indescribable into a form. It is a translation device – a facilitator. It is a collecting of moments."

Michael Madzo graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Since 1987, he has been represented by galleries in Los Angeles, New York, Paris and New Mexico.

**Media Note: for more information or pictures please contact Serri Ayers, Festival Director, Cottonwood Art Festival, City of Richardson, 972.744.4580 or [serri.ayers@cor.gov](mailto:serri.ayers@cor.gov).**