

**UPCOMING SHOW**

Up to 15 works on show  
 Sept. 1-30, 2008

Blue Rain Gallery  
 130 Lincoln Ave, Suite D  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
 (505) 954-9902

SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM



## TURID PEDERSEN

# Echoes of the past

Painter Turid Pedersen, a native of Norway, immigrated to America in 1971 and soon settled in southern New Mexico where she was inspired by the prehistoric artifacts of her adopted home near the Mimbres Valley in the Silver City area. Since then, this traditional realist has been painting timeless objects that intrigue her such as Native American artifacts, textiles, beadwork and ceramics.

Beginning Sept. 1, Pedersen will unveil several new oil paintings at Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, N.M. Allowing each still life to dictate its size, rather than her mandating specifics, this exhibition will feature several small works ranging from 5 by 7 inches up to 18 by 24 inches.

"I'm inspired by the fact that the pottery is so beautifully decorated and is utilitarian," she says. "Since I started to paint I knew I wanted to be a realist. I never felt an urge for experimentation."

In this new show, Pedersen continues to focus on Southwest artifacts, including jars, moccasins and vessels, using varied compositions portrayed in a classical style that's not affected by transient fads in art. She remains exceptional in her ability to capture the precision and vitality of these artifacts in a way that echoes the skill and complexity of the original artists.

"I'm always striving to find a new way to compose these objects," she says.

In one of her latest compositions, *Still life with Santa Domingo Santos, Fetish and Retablo*, Pedersen uses a Santa Domingo jar with a small fetish tucked in while a San Rafael archangel hangs in the background.

"It's the first time I've attempted to show overlapping indigenous and Europe belief systems," says Pedersen. "I've owned some of these retablos for a long time and I've always wanted to do something with them but never found the right way to do it. Then I looked at it six months ago and it just came

together. Things rarely happen that way but this one did."

Pedersen is dedicated to researching her subject matter so she can accurately represent the scale and appearance of the vessels she paints. Rarely working from photos, she often arranges a mock still life in her studio so she has something three dimensional to refer to. Objects come from her intimate



*Still life with Santa Domingo Santos, Fetish and Retablo*, oil on linen, 16 x 20"

*The Collector Says . . .*

*"My wife Kathy and I are drawn to Turid's work because of the level of quality present in each painting. Although each painting is different, they contain a simple and enjoyable view detailed by her beautiful trompe l'oeil technique that we appreciate more and more every day."*

*—Dennis Tyree*



**Zuni Harvest**, oil on linen, 15 x 20"

collection of Southwest artifacts as well as pieces she borrows from museums and local private collectors. Pedersen paints in a studio lit by northern light in her house in Silver City, N.M.

"I love the cool, suffused light—what it does to modeling and shadows," she says. "I never tire of how suffused light produces strong value contrasts and the mood this light creates. I'm after stillness. I'm after a contemplative mood in my work."

Inspired by light playing over 3-D objects in space, Pedersen begins the artistic process with an item, like a vessel, and then weaves a setting and composition in her mind. Next,

she spends a lot of time on preparatory studies, meticulously drawing each object.

"I never rush that stage. It's so crucial. Once I feel I've arrived at something I believe in, I decide on the size. Then I first work on wrapping paper with pastels and charcoal. I can solve so many problems this way," explains Pedersen. "Then I trace final shapes of big masses and transfer that to a canvas so I've solved most of the design and composition problems, and I can now concentrate on painting and color choices."

She's cognizant of the subtle effects of color and therefore



**The Deer Hunter**, oil on linen, 22 x 27"

chooses hues that reflect the mood she's trying to instill in a painting. Her latest body of work exemplifies her attempt to constantly strive to improve technically and with new approaches to subject matter.

"I'm dedicated to constantly moving forward in the quality of my work," Pedersen notes. "It's a never-ending quest."


Pedersen's work is widely collected and can be found in numerous private and corporate collections in the United States and Europe. Her broad collector base shares an appreciation of realistic images.

"I hear they're often drawn to the realism and details of a picture. They say there's much to look at," she adds.

While Pedersen's artistic career has enjoyed a healthy progression, she credits her move to the Southwest for instilling a new vibrancy. Prior to moving to America, she worked as a still life painter in the European tradition,

but upon discovering indigenous art of the Southwest, she became fascinated with its alien approach to her European training. As her style evolved, she began incorporating historic artifacts.

"It has provided a new, fresh and compelling subject matter and I'm still excited about it," she concludes.

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

[www.westernartcollector.com](http://www.westernartcollector.com)

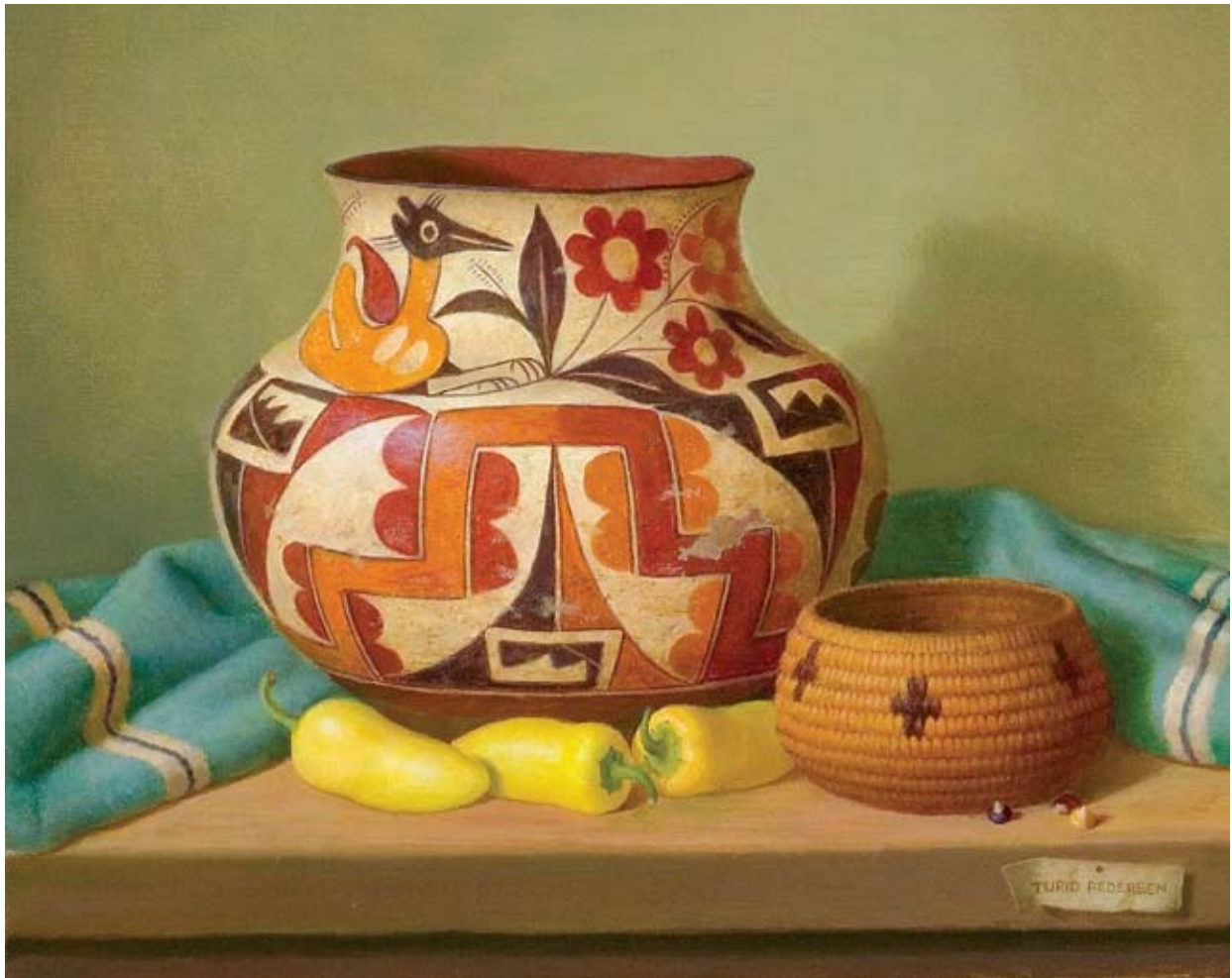
### Price Range Indicator

*Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.*

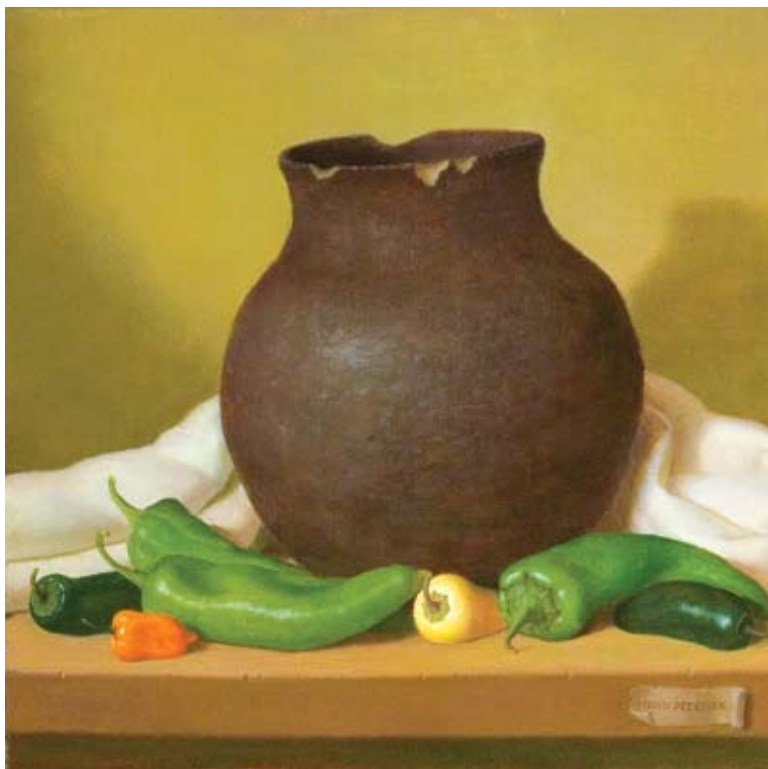
	Small	Medium	Large
1996	\$850	\$1,650	\$4,700
2001	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$7,000
2008	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$11,000



**Kiowa Strike-a-Lite bag**, 19<sup>th</sup> century, oil on linen, 8 x 13"



**Acoma Parrot Jar and Basket**, oil on linen, 9 x 11"



**Pot and Peppers**, oil on linen, 10 x 10"

*The Gallery Says . . .*

*"Turid Pedersen only paints 12 to 15 paintings a year—one reason why every painting is executed with meticulous perfection. Her use of light, color and brushwork in combination with her pleasing subject matter make her still life paintings extraordinary."*

*—Peter Stoessel,  
Executive Director,  
Blue Rain Gallery*