



Ross J. Ward  
photo:  
John 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 living testimony to Ross and Carla Ward's belief in self-determination and independence. They live their lives with joy and creativity each day, and through Tinkertown, share it with others.



## Tinkertown MUSEUM

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. Tinkertown is just 20 minutes from Albuquerque.

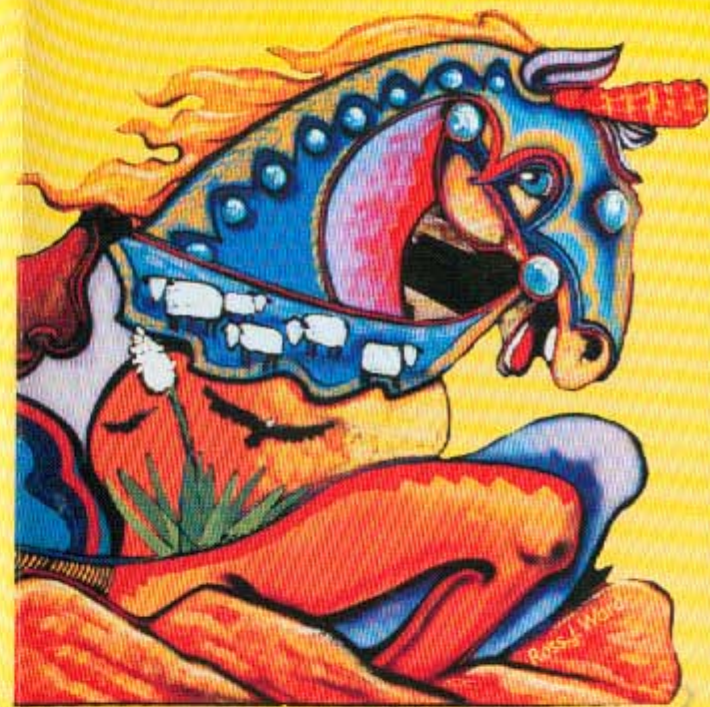
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VISIT

# TINKER TOWN MUSEUM

Ross J. Ward's life work, one of New Mexico's most renowned folk art environments



*"This is true invention and imagination."*  
– Mindy Moore, ABC's Good Morning America



Open April 1st to November 1st • Daily 9am-6pm  
Group tours available, too!

Between ALBUQUERQUE and  
SANTA FE on the TURQUOISE TRAIL

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.

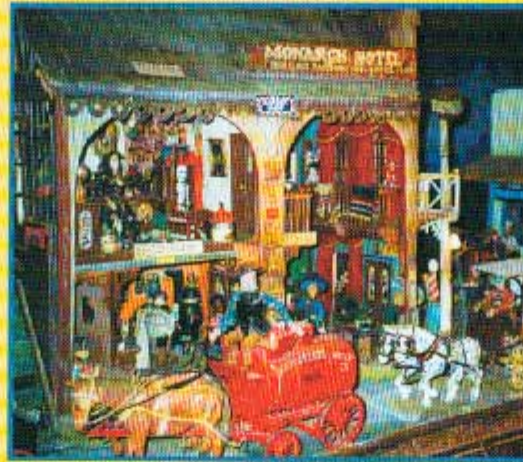
# WELCOME TO TINKERTOWN!



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



*Reba the cat enjoys visiting in the gift shop which is well stocked with a delightful collection of trinkets, toys and collector's items.*



*Life at the Monarch Hotel*

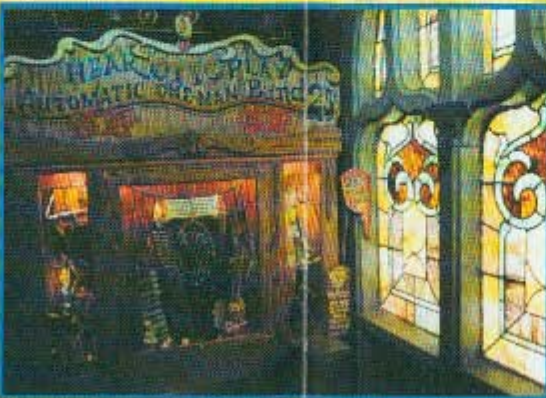
*"The Dahli Llama loved this place and so will you."  
-- Jim Jensen's Road Trip USA*



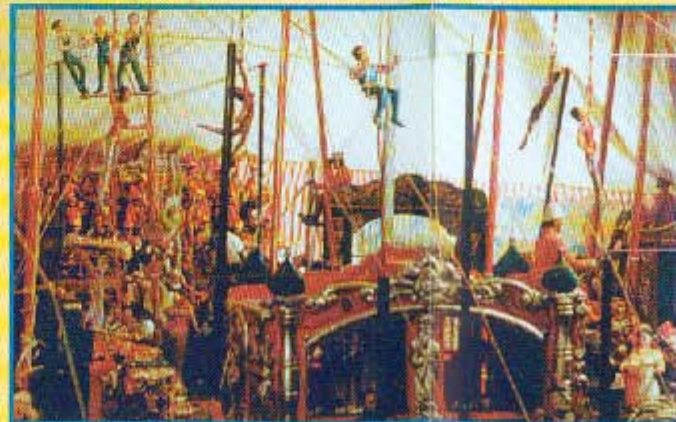
*"Set your watch back 80 years."*



*For 25¢ Esmerelda will tell your fortune!*



*Otto, playing music of yesterday.*



*Under the Big Top at Tinkertown*

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!!