



Kimberly Dublo creates beautiful art out of gourds, turning them into vessels, bowls, lamps and baskets. Whitetail deer and wildlife pop with color.



"There are so many things you can do including carving, dyeing, and wood burning," says Dublo, who grows most of her own gourds.



## Artist Creates Beautiful Gourd Art

Kimberly Dublo discovered her niche in 2002 after stopping at a roadside stand where she purchased a few gourds and made a big discovery.

"There are so many things you can do - carve, dye, wood burn. They can be used as vessels, bowls, lamps and baskets. They last a lifetime," she says.

Because Dublo is self-taught, she developed her own style and techniques.

"In every piece there is more than one technique applied to it. There is always some kind of texture - added or taken away," Dublo says, noting she especially loves to carve with rotary tools.

"My baskets are my favorite. They are time consuming. Some are big enough for both my miniature Schnauzers to fit into," she adds.

She sometimes does farmsteads, pets and other scenes requested by customers, but she's more focused on creating fine art. She adds fine detail even on the smallest

egg gourds that she carves and paints for Christmas ornaments. She doesn't just carve the shape of leaves, she adds veins. Her feathers have fine lines. Whitetail deer and wildlife pop with color.

Dublo grows about 90 percent of the gourds she uses on archways that prevent flat bottoms. She lets them dry naturally to add color and texture to the shell.

Dublo's reputation has spread through word of mouth and via her Facebook page, where she posts photos of her work and upcoming events. She also offers classes for children and adults where they can be creative with everything from decoupage and painting, to carving with power tools, depending on their ages and skill levels.

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## "Human" Ear Of Corn An Entertaining Fundraiser

It was the biggest ear of corn that folks at the 2017 New York State Fair had ever seen. The 120-ft. long ear of "human corn" was created by more than 500 people wearing green and yellow shirts. The gathering and photo, taken from the bucket of a fire truck, got people talking, as did the T-shirts promoting the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association.

It turned out to be a great debut for the association's first time exhibiting at the fair, says executive director Colleen Klein who coordinated the human corn event.

Klein organized the event with help from Patty's People Pictures, a photography studio well known for putting together "living puzzles" to photograph (www.pattyspeoplepictures.com; ph 716 903-2866).

"Patty came up with the design. She came out (to the Fair) with six people and they had the design on a tarp to spray paint the shape on the ground and make it into grids to get people in the right zone," Klein explained about the process.

After getting up in the air in a fire truck bucket, Patty used a microphone to tell people which way to move. Within 10 min. the photo shoot was over.

Preparation took the most time, Klein notes. The association promoted the event, and volunteers paid to be in the photo, receiving T-shirts, and enjoying a cookies and milk reception afterward.

The 800 shirts for the event sold out, though not all the buyers were in the photo. The shirt sales raised about \$2,000 to be given as a scholarship to a crop science major.

The photo was posted on the NYCSGA website and emailed to participants.

"It was great, the picture was cool. But the biggest impact was when the people in the



Volunteers paid to be in the photo, receiving T-shirts promoting the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association.

photo dispersed (to attend the fair) wearing the green and yellow shirts. They were a walking billboard for the association," Klein says.

In addition to the photo and shirts, the NYCSGA created a "cow garden" next to the birthing center, which they help fund. The display is focused on cow nutrition and corn and soybean crops grown to feed them.

The association is likely to do a photo again this summer, "bigger and better," Klein says.

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This 120-ft. long ear of "human corn" was created by more than 500 people wearing green and yellow shirts at the 2017 New York State Fair.