

Title: *The world of Frank Sudol through my eyes ...by Binh Pho*

Vessel turned by Frank Sudol,  
Surface work done by Binh Pho  
12" high x 5" diameter  
Materials: White birch, acrylic paint, dye



Frank and I had talked about a collaborative piece for quite sometime. I had been at the Emma Lake Collaboration conference three times in six years, yet somehow we always managed to put it off. And then, unexpectedly, Frank was gone. A short time later, Lois sent me one of Frank's unfinished turned vessels to work with. I knew from the start that I wanted to do a Ribbon Series piece to remember Frank, but it wasn't immediately clear how our works could be combined.

The final vessel features five elements:

1. **The top:** On the front top of the vessel, I pierced an Asian style gate opening up to the back with a series of pine trees. This represented Frank and the first time I visited the Christmas tree farm on his property.

2. **The Ribbons:** Frank's Ribbon Series elevated him to new heights in his career and I love this series, so the ribbons are the main visual images of the vessel.
3. **The images and symbols:** I asked myself: "If I were the original designer of this series, what would I have done?" As I would have placed images in the ribbons, I went with the idea of alternating Frank's style of ribbon which normally is a combination of color and 3-D dots and my style of ribbon which contains imagery and my favorite symbols such as dragonflies, bamboo, etc...
4. **Background color:** I believe the back drop is a critical element of the piece, as the back drop color or image sets the tone for the piece. All Frank's Ribbon Series works were done with the background being the natural color the vessel (white birch). He had never done it any other way. With his passing and this piece created in his memory, I decided *black* should be the back drop color for the piece. It would be the only black ribbon work in the entire series and the only piece that Frank and I truly collaborated on. I am sure Frank would agree with me.
5. **Piercing, the presence of the absence:** This is my favorite element of the Frank's Ribbon Series and in my own work as well, this is where I can place messages that are not obvious. It is my hope that it will make the viewers smile when they see something or just an idea that they think they see something. Frank is no longer with us, but is he really gone? If you miss someone, but one is always in your mind...It's the presence of the absence...

For Lois Laycraft in loving memory of Frank  
We love you Frank!!!!