



**LARRY FAVORITE**  
**WOOD BOOTH #43**

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Larry Favorite's Masterwork piece is a wall sculpture made of desert ironwood with turquoise inlay. The inlay is in the shape of a windswept tree and the piece consists of 48 separate blocks of wood, which are to be displayed as one coherent whole.

In 1975, Favorite walked away from a career in mechanical engineering to pursue his growing interest in art. While searching for a medium in which to express himself, he discovered desert ironwood, a species of wood that is found only in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. He began to make daily treks into the desert to locate chunks of this rare wood, some of which had lain dead in the desert for between 200 and 1500 years.

He was intrigued by this wood and began experimenting with techniques for working in this difficult medium. First, he adapted tools to allow him to shape and polish ironwood like stone, revealing rich wavy patterns of color ranging from a pale cream to a dark mahogany-like grain. Favorite then developed techniques for inlaying sterling silver and turquoise into the wood. He has now spent 31 years developing and refining techniques for working in this challenging medium. This is a unique art form, requiring an unusual combination of mechanical ability, artistic sensitivity and above all, patience.

