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CONTACT: WANDA JONES, ARIZONA ANTIQUE SHOWS 602-717-7337  
PAULA KOSZAREK, WAG THE DOG MEDIA GROUP 602.469.1816

## A RARE COLLECTION OF MICRO MOSAICS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED AT THE ARIZONA ANTIQUE SHOW

They're hard to find and even harder to see the incredible detail associated with the making of these fine Micro Mosaics. For years this prestigious antique technique was highly guarded by the Vatican and kept secret for over 200 years. Micro Mosaics are assemblages of small pieces of enamel, an opaque, vitreous substance which is similar to glass. Sometimes up to 4,000 tiny pieces per square inch were used in these exquisite keep sakes.

Attached to the development of Micro Mosaics is a story of interest. St. Peter's Basilica, completed around 1600, had such a vast basilica that clouds eventually formed in it's interior. Paintings produced by famous artists began to deteriorate and decay from the dampness. In an effort to reproduce the paintings, a search was made to find a material that would last with the present conditions. After seeing that architectural mosaics had retained their color and withstood the damp conditions, the staff began to experiment with ways of modifying existing mosaic methods, thus creating what now is known as Micro Mosaics.

A substance called tesserae was created and appeared as non-reflective and more "portrait-like". Over a period of time 28,000 different shades were created. These tiny pieces are carefully placed to create a picture. Trying to spot the tiny stones in these mosaics by looking very closely is half of the fun. These time-consuming pieces of art can be seen the weekend of May 16 & 17, 2009 at Arizona Antique Show's Phoenix Antique Market at the Arizona State Fairgrounds

The **Phoenix Antique Market** is nationally known as a "Buyers" market, offering wholesale and near wholesale pricing to all. Regional **antique shop owners, mall booth owners and serious collectors** can enhance their collection as well with fabulous pricing being offered at this show.

Exhibitors from throughout the region will be displaying and selling a wide variety of antiques and collectibles including European, Victorian and early American antiques, collectibles, jewelry, pottery, glass, locks, furniture, western antiques and collectibles, Native American artifacts, rugs, Kachinas, art, jewelry and much more.

Antiques make great gifts too! For those who are hard to buy for or those who like one of-a-kinds, there's something for everyone in every price range.

Join Arizona Antique Shows for their annual show May 16 & 17, 2009. Location: Arizona State Fairgrounds 1826 W, McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85007. Show hours Saturday, May 16 are 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 17 are 10 am to 4 pm. \*FREE admission to this event!\* For more information call 602-717-7337 or visit [www.azantiqueshow.com](http://www.azantiqueshow.com).

"The Hunt is On!"