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Destination Archaeology! Resource Center Features Artist for Gallery Night

PENSACOLA—The Destination Archaeology Resource Center (DARC) will feature artist John Jansen for Gallery Night in downtown Pensacola on May 20th from 5PM-9PM. He will display, sell and be available to discuss his artwork during Gallery Night inside the Destination Archaeology exhibit. DARC is located at the bottom floor of the FPAN Coordinating Center at 207 East Main St. in downtown Pensacola next to The Fish House. Guests are welcome to view the Destination Archaeology exhibit while they visit for the evening. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Artist bio: John Jansen was born in Fort Walton Beach in 1958. The young John was constantly discovering pottery and arrowheads on his family property. He soon learned that the area was a trash dump used by the prehistoric people living there thousands of years ago. John’s interest in the past was born, but he found it nearly impossible to get pottery pieces large enough to study their manufacture. At the age of thirteen, John began making pottery vessels to add to his collection.

For many of his pieces John combines archaeology and his artistic intuition for working the clay to create finely made pieces of art. His interest in archaeology has grown over the years. He visits museums, studies and reads extensively to make accurate replicas of ancient southeastern Native American ceramics. Generally his ideas for reproduction pieces come from books, but books cannot always fill in the construction details. That is where John’s experience and artistry make a difference.

John signs and numbers each piece. His goal is to make genuine looking pieces using the tools prehistoric potters would have had available. This includes collecting his own clay from the local area, using the same construction techniques and pit firing his pieces instead of using a modern kiln. Sometimes he must use modern means to achieve the desired result—bone tools made from old ivory knitting needles or cow bone purchased from a slaughterhouse instead of bison or deer.

Gallery Night is an event coordinated by the Pensacola Downtown Improvement Board. Seven times a year, more than 10,000 people stroll through the charming brick walkways of downtown Pensacola to experience an eclectic array of music, art and cuisine. Galleries and businesses feature the works of dozens of local artists, the aromas of local cuisine fill the streets, and the sounds of local musicians dance through the evening air.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, Destination Archaeology Resource Center and the University of West Florida are participating in this event.

For more information please contact Mike Thomin, DARC manager, mthomin@uwf.edu or 850-595-0050, Ext. 107