



## Product Profile : Tree of Life Wall Hanging

- Tree of Life is made from recycled oil drums in by Haitian Artists.
- It is 24 inches in diameter.
- These pieces are representative of the spirituality of Haitian culture.
- Made from Recycled Oil Drums
- Just one from a range of designs
- Retail Price \$79.99 @ GiftsWithHumanity.com

## Producer Profile

We met Carlo Brutus and Eugene Jacques, two of the many artisans in Croix des Bouquets, an area of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti known for artisans who make oil drum art. The constant hammering from the sheds in the area led us to beautiful metalwork, with each stop offering new designs.

Eugene's shed was tucked behind several others and yielded unique three-dimensional masks with cogs and bicycle chains for earrings. Each piece is a work of art and signed with "Eugene". Carlo has what seemed like hundreds of different design of the ubiquitous round steel drum artwork hanging from every inch of wall space in his tiny warehouse.

The Diaspora of Haitians has spread the designs and skills of Oil Drum art throughout the Caribbean but the art is truly Haitian. Old oil drums are no longer readily available and are imported into Haiti by container and sold to the artisans. Even though cheaper, more readily available steel sheets could be used, artisans rely on the used drums for the patina in their art.

## About Gifts With Humanity

While in Kenya, Kevin and Renice noticed that while the local artisans made some great stuff, there was simply nobody to sell it to. During their three year stay in Kenya they started working with local artisans to help them sell their products on the international market via the internet. After three years it was time for them to leave Kenya and they had no real plans for the future. Almost on a whim they decided to try to continue the project from a base in the USA.

Today they still work directly with some of the same artisans and great causes that they connected with back in 2000. On a recent trip to Kenya, Kevin was amazed at the impact at one project The Teenage Mothers Association of Kenya , which had purchased its own land, built a purpose built center and expanding their great work.

"The great thing about this project is that they are now sustainable, they own their own land, generate income both from fees and craft sales. I meet with girls who had been with the project for 10 years plus and are now at University, a prospect which would have been simply out of their reach without this project. This is exactly why we do what we do."

It's been a hard ten years growing the business, during some pretty rough economic times. For Kevin and Renice the success of Fair Trade despite the economy is a clear indicator that US consumers do care. They have been amazed at the success over 10 years both in the US and in the communities that produce the products.

Gifts With Humanity (GiftsWithHumanity.com) is a solely owned brand of Global Fair Trade Crafts inc.

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