

Always Christmas

Is Pleased To Host

A Dept 56 Artist Signing Event

October 17, 2010

Time TBA

DEPARTMENT



Join us and have any
newly purchased
Village items signed!

Refreshments

Give-A-Ways

Prizes

Tom Bates



Since joining the Department 56 Creative team in 1997, Village artist Tom Bates has designed hundreds of pieces for many different Villages but he does admit that *Christmas In The City* is his personal favorite.

“After reintroducing the China Town sub-series back into *Christmas In The City* in 2009, I feel the *Jade Palace Chinese Restaurant* (808798) came together nicely to compliment *The Golden Ox Market* (805533). From the bright color pallet to the interesting pagoda architecture, it may be my new favorite, but it’s hard to count out the *Instant Snowman Factory* (808921) in the *North Pole™*.”

When asked if there was a building that has not been included in any of our Villages that he would like to design, Tom replied that it would definitely be the Chrysler Building in New York City. “And not just because of the pure size of the piece, but more importantly the wonderful Art Deco spire to the replica 1929 Chrysler hood ornament eagles on the building. I think this would be a fantastic addition to *Christmas In The City*. A piece like this would require a licensing agreement, so maybe someday.”

Each building requires a certain amount of research and learning how it will fit into the existing Village. When the ideas and reference materials come together Tom is inspired to move forward quickly on a project. “Because I am surrounded by a talented team who is always available when I need help and feedback, I continue to enjoy what I do. We laugh together and keep each other going.”

When not designing Village pieces, Tom enjoys taking photos “of the great outdoors.” He also is trying to find time to get back to painting, something he loves.

Department 56 the leader in lighted collectible Villages, is part of the Enesco family of brands and is located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.