

Virgil J. Nez: Chinle, Arizona

Navajo

Oil & Watercolor Painting, Pastel Drawing



Virgil Nez has been painting since 1991 when he received his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Illustration and Painting from Northern Arizona University. Virgil is Diné or Navajo; his maternal clan is the Tobacco clan with a streak of

Red Earth sediment running into a body of water and his paternal clan is People of the Red House.

Virgil specializes in oil and watercolor painting and occasionally works in pastel drawing. His paintings are inspired by memories of his grandmother and his interest in shape-shifters transforming from man to an animal. Occasionally, he paints tepees of Native American Ceremonies and transparent Navajo Kachinas (Yeí'bi'chi's) emerging from the motherland.

Virgil Nez has won numerous awards from various museums and juried exhibitions. He was published in Arizona Highways in 1994 and 2005 and was featured in Enduring Tradition by Lois and Jerry Jackas. His most recent awards are 1st Place - Drawing at the 2005 Santa Fe Indian Market, 1st Place - Pastel at Eiteljorg Museum in 2005, Best of Division - Painting at the 2005 Tucson Indian Market and the Featured Artist at the 2005 Scottsdale Indian Artist of America 2005. Virgil was awarded 2nd Place - Easel Art at the Tesoro Cultural Center's 2006 Indian Market.

