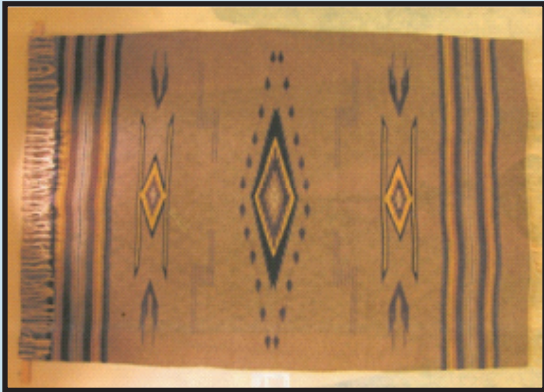


## Eugene & Rose Vigil: Chimayo, New Mexico

### *Weaving*



Since Eugene and Rose were born and raised in the Chimayo Valley, they have always had an interest in the traditions of the area. Their goal is to preserve and promote all aspects of Hispanic weavings, from the most traditional to the contemporary. As their ancestors came to Chimayo Valley in the 1700's they faced many hardships and the only reason they survived the hardships is because they worked as a family unit. Without the family members working in unity, the job of the other one would not be completed. The same holds true today. Without his wife, Rose, Eugene's textiles could not be completed. She is the foundation of the traditional textiles that Eugene weaves. Rose washes, cards, spins and dyes the wool. It is after Rose's job is complete that Eugene can begin to weave his textiles on a loom that both of them built.

Rose and Eugene create the dye by extracting the natural pigmentation from the plants they have gathered during their field trips. The feel of the handspun yarn is that of a rustic land. The color from the plants that surround them in Northern New Mexico comes from local vegetation picked by their hands. The designs are representative of their culture, with simple stripes, twills, serrated diamonds, blocks designs, hourglass, chispas and seamed textiles.

The early weavers of Chimayo were mainly men. The women of the village cleaned, spun and dyed the fiber. The men could not weave until the women had spun enough wool for them. This made the art of weaving a very close family affair. Eugene and Rose have captured the sense of family working together in their work. This collaboration also supports their artistic strengths. Like their ancestors before them, the craft of weaving is theirs from beginning to end.

Booth 19