

Jimmy Trujillo: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Traditional Encrusted Straw



In early 1984 Jimmy was introduced to, and became very interested in the New Mexico Spanish Colonial art form of encrusted straw and cornhusk. Hundreds of hours of research have been compiled in the use of techniques, methods and materials. Several procedures have been tried with only a couple producing some excellent results.

The materials most commonly used for creating designs are straw and cornhusk. Jimmy has also added a palette of natural shades of cornhusk ranging from light pink to a very dark purple and a mottled blue. The use of dyed straw is also being incorporated either as accents or a majority of the design. A prepared mixture of piñon pine resin dissolved in grain alcohol was used as glue and as a varnish. This resin mixture, used as glue, was applied fairly thick into the painted wood surface, the cut out pieces of straw and or cornhusk used for

designs were embedded into the glue and then sealed with a thinner version of this same resin mixture as a varnish.

The most common items produced with encrusting were crosses, nichos, retablos, small trinket and candle boxes, candle sconces and small to medium size chests. The primary wood used was hand split, hand hewed ponderosa pine. The wood was almost always painted/stained. The only colorants found in use on these items were lamp black, vermilion and indigo.

Booth

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