

# José Raul Esquibel: Littleton, Colorado

## *Retablos and Bultos*



José is a Littleton, Colorado native with family roots in northern New Mexico (Sapello/Rociada/Las Vegas area). Santero Esquibel has a B.A. in history from Regis University, a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University and has done graduate work in interfaith studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

He considers his role as Santero to be that of an artist/educator. He calls his Santo style "traditional/devotional. He has been described by the Rocky Mountain News as "one of the region's leading experts on the art of Saint making." Although he has taught the Santo art course at Regis University and lectured at the University of Denver Graduate School, Metropolitan State College and the Iliff School of Theology, he prefers to teach Santo art at the popular level. As part

of his popular education efforts he has given numerous presentations at libraries, churches, museums and community centers in the Denver area and in rural Colorado towns.

José is the recipient of the Heritage Award from the Colorado Council on the Arts (1997) and the Fellowship in Interfaith Understanding from the University of Denver (1998). He has served as a judge at Spanish Market, Santa Fe (1996). He was awarded the Juror's Award in wood by Celebrate Colorado Artists (2001). In 2006, he was awarded the H.R. Meininger Award by the North American Sculpture Exhibit.

His Santos adorn numerous churches and chapels in New Mexico and Colorado including: Queen of Peace Church in Aurora, Colorado, St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado and St. Mary Catholic Church, Littleton, Colorado. His retablo of San Jose graces the chapel of the Pontifical Council on the Laity in Rome, Italy.

Booth  
7