

Norma Medina: Medanales, New Mexico

Weaving



Norma was born in Medanales, a small northern New Mexico community. She is a mother of five and grandmother of twelve. She is the third of five generations of weavers. All of her children weave in addition to three of her grandchildren.

When Norma first began to weave she saw it was a way to make a little extra money and allow her to stay home and raise her children. Somewhere along the way weaving ceased being an extra income and formed into art. But Norma wanted more than keeping up with traditions and making repetitious designs. As Norma says, “While the exposure and enthusiasm of tradition came from my mother and grandmother, the motivation to move into new areas and new designs comes from a deep desire to go along with what my spirit moves me to do.” By copying some of nature’s landscapes and sunsets, Norma dips into nature’s world of color. She uses every plant she can get her hands on to dye her yarns.

In 1986 her grandmother, her mother and Norma participated in a four-generation art exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute for the Festival of American Folk life. In 1993 Norma and her mother were invited to exhibit their weavings at America’s Reunion on the Mall for the 52nd Presidential Inaugural Talent Festival at the Smithsonian. In 1994 she was commissioned to weave the Passion of Christ for St. Peters Church in Greeley, Colorado. The project took her three years to complete.

In some 20 years Norma has acquired her own collection of ribbons and awards, which is nice, but for her the best feeling is to make a weaving that passes on feelings, to actually tell a story and share a part of her land of enchantment. As Norma participates in adding a fourth and fifth generation of weavers, she asks them to do what their spirit moves them to do. She feels that weaving is the tradition and what they design and create is their identity.

Booth
22