

Artist Sponsorship Program Applicant



Joseph Begay: Albuquerque, New Mexico
Navajo
Stone Carvings and Sculpture

Joseph Begay is a full blooded Native America Indian born into the Navajo Nation in 1964. He learned the art of carving on stones from his friend, Jeff Lewis. Joseph began carving on stone at the age of 22. The lucrative aspect of the business played a key role in him becoming a fine artisan. It is his primary source of income to support his family.

Joseph works with natural materials found throughout the southwest. The materials that he primarily carves from are: alabaster, serpentine, Picasso marble, jet, dolomite, amber, argyrite, and sillonite. His distinctive animals include life-like representations of bears, turtles, eagles, coyotes, buffalos and several others. His carvings are enhanced by either a solid or multi-color inlaid heartline or a prayer bundle containing arrows, feathers, and heshi that he places on the backs of his carvings. Joseph is proud and honored to be artistically gifted with this special talent. He is also extremely enthusiastic about sharing his artistic abilities and his cultural background. He signs his carvings J.B.



Clifford Brycelea: Santa Fe, New Mexico
Navajo
Watercolors, Acrylic, and Print

The work of Navajo artist Clifford Brycelea reflects the legends and lifestyles of Native Americans. Using an array of water-soluble media, acrylic and pen & ink, he executes each of his painting with a specific purpose in mind. Within Brycelea's two distinct styles, mystical and realistic, a story is always hidden. Brycelea exerts his talents with a realistic flair in his landscape

paintings. Each scene is a still life of Native American culture, influenced by his youth on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. Omnipresent in his work is the theme of Mother Earth: the paradox of her power and fragility in today's world. Symbols communicating Brycelea's point may appear in the form of a tree that is healthy on the bottom but brittle and brown at the top. Each landscape provides a silent open refuge for the collector to escape from the hassles of society today. In Brycelea's mystical images his formal training in commercial art is apparent. Depicting traditional Native American legends, Brycelea leaves the interpretation of each story to the viewer. That allows him to express what he knows best, Native American culture, without showing too much and offending his people. Brycelea has a specific message in mind each time he begins to paint. Through his highly symbolic styles of realism and mysticism, he is able to communicate his message on canvas. He hopes for his work to speak to the collectors and allows much room for individual interpretation. Brycelea was named the 1987 Artist of the year by the Indian Arts and Crafts Association. He continues to win awards including gold medals for the American Indian Cowboy Artists Society and was awarded 2nd place in the 2004 SWAIA Indian Market.

Joe and Le Jeune Chavez: Santo Domingo, New Mexico
Santo Domingo/ Santo Domingo and Seminole
Jewelry and Beadwork

Joe and Le Jeune Chavez are a husband and wife team working together to mix a unique style of sterling silver with intricate beadwork creating one of a kind pieces. Joe's interest for silverwork began very young as he helped polish his father's pieces. Joe's style developed into a mixture of traditional Pueblo culture with more contemporary original



designs. Le Jeune draws inspiration from her multi-tribal background to mix styles and materials in her work. Her innovative designs often mix natural stones, shell, antique beads and Swarovski crystals. Joe and Le Jeune have melded their complementary styles to create what Le Jeune has come to call “Beads on Silver.” Joe and Le Jeune’s renowned style has been seen at the Heard Museum, the Eiteljorg, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe Indian Art Market, and the Red Earth Native American Art Show. This is the Chavez’s second year at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s Market and Powwow.

Laurence Crank: Kayenta, Arizona

Navajo

Mixed Media

Laurence Crank is a Navajo artist who was born in Monument Valley, UT in 1966. He was always intrigued by artwork left by his ancestors in the Valley. Because of their influence he took Pottery classes during his high school years, learning the art of the wheel thrown pottery. Laurence has continued to learn and improve his craft for over 20 years.

Each one of his pieces is hand etched and hand painted, so that no two are exactly alike. This method enables each piece to have its own story. On almost all of his pots, Laurence draws the morning sun, which gives him inspiration almost every day. The symmetry and intricacy of the etched designs provides an immediate sense of balance and spiritual connection with nature. Laurence incorporates traditional and contemporary designs into his pottery, taking it further by inserting lifelike pictures of the North America wildlife including cougar, deer, elk, bears, Rocky Mountains rams and buffalos. He also likes to paint the American eagle and the hummingbirds on his pottery.

His life work is a spiritual journey stating that “when I take the etching tools and paint brush in my hand, I feel the presence of my ancestors guiding my hand. Thus, each piece I create is unique. That is my motivation to create something, more beautiful each time. It is a road less traveled”. Laurence is an accomplished artist receiving several awards in his lifetime, including 1st place during the 15th Annual West Valley Invitational Native American Art Festival (Litchfield, AZ), and “Best New Artist” award at the Indian Summer Festival (Milwaukee, WI). Laurence was awarded 2nd Place in the Sculpture category at the 8th Annual Indian Market and Powwow.

Ryland Gasper: Zuni, New Mexico

Zuni

Jewelry

As a teenager, sitting next to his grandma, Ryland Gasper watched as she made jewelry. His grandmother taught him how to do needlepoint which he did for a few years. Ryland learned inlay from Mr. and Mrs. Lonjose. Since that time he has mostly done inlay with a little needlepoint.



Ryland’s wife began helping him with his jewelry in 2003. The first art show he attended was in 2004 in Santa Fe. Ryland continues to be thankful to his Grandma Grace Bert and to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lonjose for teaching him the techniques of jewelry making. This is Ryland’s first year at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s Indian Market.



Jesse Hummingbird: Bisbee, Arizona
Cherokee
Paintings

Jesse is a tribal member of the Cherokee Nation. He was raised in the southeastern part of the country; in South Carolina as a young child and in Tennessee where he graduated high school. He maintained his bond with the heart of Cherokee country by spending summers with his grandmother in and around Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

He attended college at the University of Tennessee, majoring in art, and later continued his studies at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. He still takes print classes at Cochise Community College. As an adult, he has lived in several sections of the country, establishing himself as a successful printer, graphic artist and commercial illustrator. He has been a full-time artist since 1983, pursuing both Cherokee and American Indian themes with his own unique interpretation, style and “mythology.” He has been an active member of several American Indian artist associations and market boards.

In 2000, Jesse was commissioned by the new Indian Motorcycle Company to paint one of his characters on their new Indian motorcycle. Jesse’s work has been exhibited in a private collection exhibit in Taiwan and reproduced in several books. Jesse’s work was shown in a one-man show at the Brauer Museum of Art on the campus of Valparaiso University in Indiana and he was the featured artist at their Native American Festival in October 2004.

Jesse has won top awards for his paintings at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, The Heard Museum, Pueblo Grande Museum and the Santa Fe Indian Art Market. He was awarded 2nd Place – Painting at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2004 Indian Market. He and his wife Sandy have also published four activity/coloring books for children with the Book Publishing Company of Summertown, Tennessee. Jesse was awarded 2nd Place – Easel Art at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2007 Indian Market & Powwow and he won 3rd Place in Easel Art at Tesoro’s 2009 Indian Market.

Alfred Joe: Winslow, Arizona
Navajo
Jewelry & Leather

Al was born in Winslow, Arizona and grew up in Dilkon, Arizona. He first became interested in jewelry at the age of 12 during a visit to the Flagstaff Powwow and later, while attending Northern Arizona University, Al took a beginning class in jewelry. During his second year in college, Al’s uncle, Colbert Joe, Sr., took him under his wing and taught his nephew the basics of jewelry making.

Al is an award-winning artist who works in silver and gold. He is known for his meticulous precision and elegant designs. Al often integrates stones into his pieces using lapis, coral or older natural turquoise stones from the Lander, Bisbee, Morenci or Indian Mountain Mines. He loves to experiment and work on innovative techniques. He considers his work to be a combination of traditional and contemporary, perhaps with more emphasis on the contemporary.



In 2001 Al was selected Artist of the Year by the Indian Arts and Crafts Association. His work can be found in the Permanent Collection for Native American Jewelry at the Museum of Man in San Diego; and he is the winner of numerous awards from Santa Fe Indian Market, Gallup Intertribal Indian Ceremonial, Eight Northern Pueblos Arts & Crafts show and the Navajo Market Place at the Museum of Northern Arizona. Most recently he received 1st and 2nd Place at the 2005 Santa Fe Indian Market, and Best of Division and 1st Place at the 2005 Heard Museum Indian Fair.

Antone LeBeau

Lakota, Cheyenne River Sioux

Beadwork, Porcupine Quillwork, Northern Plains Style Cultural Items, Jewelry, Sculpture

Antone Le Beau is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and is also a Lakota Sun Dancer and Pipe Carrier. Antone is a self-taught jeweler who began his craft career making artifacts. He learned jewelry making by reading books and taught himself the techniques needed to create each piece. He does most of his own lapidary work and likes to use the free form of each stone.

Antone has won numerous awards over the years and has been featured in several publications, including Native Peoples. His most recent awards include: 1st Place – Traditional Beadwork and 2nd Place – Diverse Art Forms at the 2007 Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market, and 2nd Place – Diverse Art Form at the 2006 Santa Fe Indian Market. Antone received 2nd Place – Ethnic Arts at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s Indian Market in 2005 and 2006 and 1st Place – Ethnic Arts in 2007. In 2009 he won 3rd Place in Sculpture at Tesoro’s Indian Market.



Andy Marion: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Navajo

Jewelry

Andy Marion has been a silversmith since the age of 9 and won his first award when he was a teenager. He was taught by his father who is also a silversmith. Andy currently does both traditional and contemporary designs, focusing mostly on one-of-a-kind pieces. Andy sites working on bolo ties commissioned by Charlie Daniels and Kevin Costner as two of his greatest experiences.

Andy’s awards include 1st Place – Jewelry at the Heard Museum, 1st Place – Jewelry at the Eight Northern Artist Craft Show, and Best of Show – Jewelry at the Sky Ute Artist Invitational.



Eddie Morrison: Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Cherokee

Sculpture

Eddie was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he was raised by his grandmother, Jane Batt Brackett. He attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe with a degree in Three-Dimensional Arts. He was awarded the faculty department award for Outstanding Student in Three-Dimensional Arts.

Eddie Morrison specializes in creating three-dimensional works from wood, stone and bronze. His contemporary traditional style also incorporates relief-carved images which give multiple layers of visual interest and meaning to his work. Eddie’s earliest artistic recollections were of his grandmother and aunt designing and crafting hand-made quilts and crocheted items. He remembers that “there was always someone doing something with wood” in his home and surroundings. “My best friend’s father would sit for

hours on end carving pieces of wood into beautiful traditional bows and arrows. I believe I was more influenced by him than any other person about my feeling for wood.”

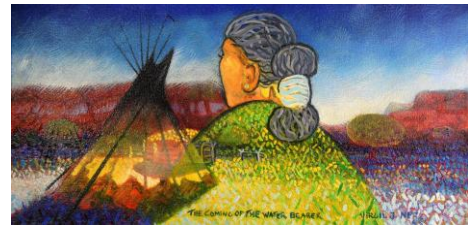
Eddie’s other honors include awards won at the prestigious Santa Fe Indian Market as well as many other art shows throughout the United States. His work is in numerous private and public collections. His carvings and sculptures have also been displayed in the office of the Speaker of the House at the State Capitol building in Kansas and in the Capitol rotunda. Eddie was chosen as artist of the month in June of 2000 by the American Indian Arts and Crafts Shop in the Department of Interior Building in Washington D.C. He was commissioned for the Chisholm Trail monument on the Kansas/Oklahoma border and his design was chosen for the First Christmas Ornament 2001 produced by the Cherokee Nation. He received 3rd Place – Sculpture at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2005 and 2006 Indian Markets.

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. He considers himself the Navajo Vincent Van Gogh, Jean Claude Monet and George Serot rolled into one. His paintings are inspired by memories of his grandmother and his interest in shape-shifters transforming from man to an animal. Occasionally, he paints teepees of Native American Ceremonies and transparent Navajo Kachinas (Yei’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.



Mark Silversmith: Farmington, New Mexico

Navajo

Watercolor & Oil Paintings

Mark Silversmith was born on the Navajo Reservation in Rehoboth, New Mexico. With the exception of living in Weatherford, Oklahoma while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from

Southwestern Oklahoma State University, he has not lived more than 100 miles from his birthplace. His gift in painting is part of a family legacy in art. His father, Joe Chee Silversmith was a well known silversmith as well as his grandfather, Chee Silversmith. His mother, Ida Mary, was known for her beautiful Navajo weavings.

Mark has spent the last 21 years of his career dedicating his talents to preserving the heritage of Native American people. He is best known for his intricate watercolor portrayals of pre-reservation Native American life. Mark’s most significant artistic achievements are reflected in the many awards that he has won at the Heard Museum, the

Eiteljorg Museum, and the Santa Fe Indian Market. His most notable commissions have been created for Hewlett-Packard, Harley-Davidson, North American Tool and Dye, the Coors Corporation and the Chrysler Corporation. Mark was awarded 1st Place – Easel Art at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2007 Indian Market & Powwow.

Adrian Wall
Jemez Pueblo
Sculpture

Adrian Wall is a renowned sculptor from Jemez Pueblo. He has won several major awards and is a member of the Indigenous Sculptors Society, an elite group of Native American Sculptors dedicated to the advancement of stone sculpture. Adrian’s work can be found in museums and private collections across the United States. He has been sculpting since his late teens and has always had an affinity for sculpture. Adrian’s primary medium is stone, but he works with clay and bronze as well. The subjects of Adrian’s sculptures most often relate to his Pueblo heritage. Stylistically, Adrian is well known for blending figurative detail with abstract forms. Adrian’s most recent sculptural explorations involve interpreting pueblo pottery designs and symbols in three-dimensional forms.

