

Gloria López Córdova: Córdova, New Mexico

Wood Carving



Gloria comes from a family of woodworkers known throughout northern New Mexico for their unique chip carved Santos, nativities, birds and trees of life. Carved from aspen, cedar or pine, the López artists are noted for their naturalistic, unpainted figures. Her parents, Rafael and Precide López, were sinters; and her grandfather, José Dolores López, an acclaimed woodcarver.

Gloria began her apprenticeship as a Santera at age eight, helping her parents sand their carvings. In 1978, Gloria opened her studio

and began showing her work at Spanish Market. She became known as the successor to the López carving legacy. She is known for her ability to sand and finish aspen wood to such a degree that it has been mistaken for polished ivory.

Since those early days, Gloria has been honored with high-profile exhibitions of her work at the Smithsonian Institute, the Museum of International Folk Art, Millicent Rogers Museum, Albuquerque Museum, Tucson Museum of Art and the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum. In 2007 at the Traditional Spanish Market, Gloria was honored with the José Dolores López Memorial Award and she received a 1st Place Leo Salazar Memorial Award in the Unpainted Bultos category. Last year Gloria won 2nd Place in Bultos at Tesoro. She was recognized for her talent when she received the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2000. In 2009, Gloria received the Masters Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Spanish Colonial Arts Society. In 2013 Gloria won 3rd Place in Bultos at Tesoro's Spanish Colonial Market.

