

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. "This is what I share with you today, a tradition that I am striving to keep alive. I have embarked on this journey with much pride and admiration. I also pray that this is reflected in each original work of art that I create."

Jimmy has 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. 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.

Three of Jimmy's crosses grace the permanent collection of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, NM: three pieces in the American Museum of Straw Art in Long Beach, CA: two pieces are also found in the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos, NM; several crosses, a matraca and a collaboration on a bulto with Charlie Carrillo can be found in the collections of the Museum of Spanish Colonial Arts in Santa Fe, NM. His work can also be found in numerous private collections throughout the world. This year Jimmy won the Master's Award for Lifetime Achievement at Santa Fe's Spanish Colonial Market! Last year Jimmy won 2nd Place in Hispanic Arts at Tesoro's Spanish Colonial Market.

