Sean Trujillo: Denver, Colorado

*Santos*

Sean calls himself a student to his ancestry and faith, an artist, and most of all Santero. His story began from a small catholic School in North Denver, to his education at the Denver School of the Arts as well as Metropolitan State University of Denver and Sean is now pursuing his career as an artist, educator and Santero as the Education Director at CHAC Gallery in Denver’s Santa Fe Arts District. In his early adulthood, Sean researched, studied and recognized the true meaning and roots of his Spanish Colonial ancestry, and the art of retablo making. He listens to the stories, carries on the traditions and deeply relates to the gifts his ancestors have given him. He is forever grateful to the Santeros who paved the way before, as well as those who create today’s examples of this unique Spanish Colonial art form. He has been painting religious icons since childhood and as he grows older, Sean is starting to have a stronger connection with his ancestry and the images he paints. He believes through each image of these saints, there is a story to be told, an example to follow, a remembrance to bring forth in a humble embodiment of religious and historical storytelling in pigment and wood. Each retablo produced is a physical manifestation of his spiritual energies, a devotion and embodiment of who he is. The art of retablo making is one very dear to Sean and as a student to his ancestry, he finds it important to carry on traditional methods, techniques and materials used in retablo making. His uses of all natural pigments are native to Colorado and New Mexico. His wood carvings, natural pinon varnishes, and techniques are purposely utilized to create his vision of bringing life to each piece and each story in his effort to stay true to the pure devotion of the divine as well as the Spanish Colonial style of the retablo. Sean is deeply rooted in the history behind this Spanish Colonial style of art as a part of his blood line. He is a Denver, Colorado native whose ancestors hailed from Valladolid, Spain and colonized in Queretaro, New Spain or modern day Mexico - then migrated north and settled in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico before eventually settling in Colorado. His family’s journey began long ago and he strives to continue that journey in every way possible through learning, creating and sharing.

This is Sean’s first appearance at Tesoro’s Spanish Colonial Art Market as a Santero and Santos Workshop facilitator.