

Baje Whitethorne, Sr., Flagstaff, Arizona

*Navajo
Painting, sculpture*



Baje grew up on the Navajo Reservation near Shonto, Arizona. As a child, he was first drawn into the world of storytelling when he and his brothers would make up stories on the way to their grandmother's house. His talent for art was apparent even in grade school, and his teachers were all supportive of his gift.

Currently, Baje resides in Flagstaff, Arizona, and he continues to pursue

his childhood interests of storytelling and art. His artwork reflects his homeland and rich culture, depicting striking landscapes and the harmony of the Navajo way of life. In most of his pieces is a small folding chair, popularly regarded as Baje's personal trademark.

"When I was a boy, my parents and grandparents brought home a new card table with six metallic blue chairs. In the summer months, I would put my face against the cool seat of the chairs. Now, I include the chair in my artwork because it reminds me of my boyhood and because it draws people into my artwork when they try to find it."

Baje has illustrated eight children's books, two of which he also authored. Among them are the Native American legends *Monster Bird*, *Monster Slayer*, and *Sika and the Raven*. His unique style has earned him the Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the Cowboy Hall of Fame, in addition to many other honors.

Baje's artwork can be seen at various museums, art galleries, and private collections across the globe.

