

Bruce Joe, Vanderwagen, New Mexico

Diné (Navajo) Nation Jewelry



I am a member of the Navajo tribe. I am a member of the Kintichii 'nii (Red House People) and born for Ta 'baa ha' (The Water's Edge People).

My family has been involved in jewelry making for three generations and I have been involved since 1990.

My work is pictorial inlay. I start by drawing, sawing out, soldering, inlaying and buffing by using sterling silver and various types of sea shells and precious stones. I produce channel inlay, overlay, traditional jewelry and stringing.

I have attended various art shows in places such as Pueblo Grande Museum Indian Market, Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonials, where I was awarded 2nd and 3rd place ribbons, and was a Bien Mur Indian Market's featured artist during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

When I am not engaged in jewelry making, I spend time as an arc welder, auto mechanic and home repairer. In my free time I attend to my corn field and play the guitar.

I take pride in every jewelry piece I produce and when I see someone wearing my jewelry, I'm very honored.

Awards:

2nd place, 20th Annual Litchfield Park Native American Art Festival

2nd place, Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market & Festival

2nd place, 2012 Mesa Verde County IACF

2nd place Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

2nd place Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

3rd place, Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

