

## Milton Lee, Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Diné (Navajo) Nation  
Jewelry Silversmith*



Milton was born in Gallup, NM in the mid-60's grew up in Red Rock Community before moving to Albuquerque. He is a third generation silversmith, taught by his mother, who inherited her uncle's silversmithing tools when he passed. As a child Milton would help her in the process by cutting pieces for her and holding the torch to melt silver while she prepared a mold to cast. Little did he know, he was in class and his mother was the instructor. His grandmother was a rug textile weaver. He helped and watched her dye the wool with natural herbs to make the colors and make her

designs on the rugs. He uses some of her rug designs in his jewelry – a unique talent he acquired and applied to his jewelry making. Since then, Milton has acquired many different techniques such as lapidary, stone cutting, silver inlay with stones, silver overlay, casting and making turquoise heshi.

