

# ART CATALOGUE

by the Sea

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# Capturing the Heart and Spirit of the Southwest



*Carla Romero*

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# Down to Earth Art

By Daniel Huberman, Photos by Gary Liggan



Carla in her studio

Some folks can compute complex mathematical equations in their heads. Some folks are natural talkers. Sometimes people are born with great artistic talents. Carla Romero is one of these people. Ever since childhood, Carla has had a natural eye for colors and meaning, "I won my first coloring contest when I was six years old," said Carla with a humble smile. She began painting professionally in 1993 and quit her job to focus full time on art the following year. Since making that artistic leap, Carla has touched the lives of many with her serene, self-taught brushwork.

Carla was born in Grand Junction, Colorado, but her family comes from northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Carla now lives in



"The Pottery Keeper" 12" x 20" Watercolor on paper

Pueblo West, Colorado, and shows her work throughout the Southwest. She is recognized for her delicate attention to detail, her robust color choices and ability to convey feeling in her paintings. While she covers a variety of subject matter, the prevailing theme of her art is most certainly Southwestern.

Majestic buffalo, native spirits and blankets of snow on quiet streams all grace the walls of Carla's studio. Her Vespers series impart a deep and mystic feeling on the viewer. Carla explained, "These Kiva ladder scenes are known as 'Vespers', meaning 'evening prayers.' I'm not religious, but I am very spiritual and these scenes spoke to me." The scenes are so strong that she paints them straight from her head, a blend of memory and imagination.



Carla with her husband, Arnold, at home in their backyard

Much of Carla's art comes from an internal place, "Especially with the snowy creek scenes, they just come to me. When I was a little girl, my parents used to take me camping in the mountains.

We would go for a month at a time. I would fish the streams and those memories have just stayed with me." Tranquil and majestic, her landscapes reflect her connection with her environment.

Carla's work strongly reflects her inspiration. "It's a little bit of everything -- sunsets, wildlife, certain places that I have been." Carla was first inspired during a visit to Taos, New Mexico, the place where she would also begin to show her work and receive recognition. "When I first stepped onto the grounds of the Taos Pueblo I had this vision that I could paint." That initial inspiration has fueled her work ever since. Carla feels a great affinity for Taos and looks forward to showing there again sometime in the future.



"Shadows of Sage" 10" x 20" Watercolor on paper

Carla especially enjoys her yearly trip to show at the Eldorado Hotel during the Santa Fe Indian Market. "This year was a very successful show," said Carla. Art enthusiasts from all over the country jumped at the opportunity to add Carla's striking work to their collections. This year's Indian Market gave Carla a chance to connect with some of her international collectors as well. "I always have a great time getting to know the different folks at these shows and it's really exciting to have so many return collectors, too." Carla enjoys meeting her collectors at showings and also welcomes them to visit her home studio.

Carla used to work in retail. "I was a manager, a bookkeeper, merchandiser, everything! All of that experience was neat. It prepared me for the business part of being an artist," a truly valuable skill set that many artists lack. "This is what I do for a living. It's a blessing and it comes from very humble beginnings. I am lucky that people fell in love with my work. They really recognized that there was something special there."

Carla has a lot to be happy about these days. "The big news is that I got married!" exclaimed Carla with a giant smile. "I have a life with another

person and I absolutely love it! I wouldn't trade it for the world!" She and her new husband, Arnold Marquez, have been camping, fishing and golfing, and Carla recently caught a two-pound rainbow trout in southern Colorado. In addition to his love and support, Arnold also constructs the quality frames for Carla's paintings.

To complement her evolving life, Carla is considering expanding to new mediums. "I know that I want to go to the next level. I will always paint, but I want to start delving into the three-dimensional. I know I can do it. I just really haven't had the time. Hopefully that's my next move...I'd love to try carving stone and sculpting clay." Asked when her collectors might expect to see her three-dimensional work, Carla responded, "I'm hoping I can concentrate on that sometime in the next couple of years."

As excitement flows through her home and studio in anticipation of her next artistic endeavor, whatever direction the next series takes, we can be sure that it will be grounded, beautiful and successful, just like Carla.



"Three Prayers" 40" x 30" Acrylic on canvas

# Carolene of Taos



A prolific painter, Carolene, sketches in the evening, getting ready to paint the next day. Her favorite painting styles are impressionism and expressionism where her admiration for the great Vincent Van Gogh is clearly evident in her paintings. As a colorist, she loves high color and isn't afraid to use it. "I love the secondary colors: purple, orange and blue green." She has painted with acrylics and oils, but now paints with water-based oils.

Carolene was married to Dr. Carlton Herbel, a pioneer scientist at a government-owned ranch north of Las Cruces. He was a Private First Class when she met him in Manhattan, Kansas. "I took one look at him and knew I would not let him get away," she said. "He had made a blind date with my roommate, but I took over." They were married in 3 months. After Carlton got out of the Army, he received his doctorate and Carolene received her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University. Carlton

was offered a job in Florida and New Mexico. Carolene chose New Mexico. Their great partnership produced two children: son, Kurt, and daughter, Belinda. They lost Carlton to leukemia in 1997. Being a scientist,

**C**arolene Herbel's love for folk art and her passion for the landscape and the culture of New Mexico are reflected in her paintings. She studied art at Kansas State University, Kansas University and New Mexico State University. She also studied printmaking at the University of New Mexico in Taos. Carolene has been painting for 50 years and is now 81 years young.

"I started drawing beautiful women as a five-year-old," she reminisced. "Later, from 1977 until 2001, I designed and sold clothing inspired by New Mexico in Mesilla, New Mexico. But my greatest ambition and passion was and always has been painting." Carolene now spends her days fulfilling that burning desire.

With her love of textiles and New Mexico, she loves putting native women in her adobe-filled paintings. The churches and landscapes that surround her in the "Land of Enchantment" are among her favorite subjects in her paintings.



Carlton was a free thinker, which greatly inspired Carolene to think for herself, "I don't think you can be an artist until you have inner freedom."

In 2008, Carolene and Belinda moved from Las Cruces to Taos, where Carolene is greatly inspired by the awesome talent of her fellow Taosenos. These include renowned artists Rich Nichols and Leigh Gusterson with whom she had the good fortune to attend their plein air (outdoor) painting workshops. Carolene also studied with colorist and expressionist Michelle Chrisman and is truly inspired by the Native American artists in the Taos area.



Digital photography is another passion of Carolene's. She became a photographer out of necessity when she needed photos of her designed clothing and used area models to display her designs for photography in advertising and promotion. Now Carolene uses the computer as a helpmate and paints with the computer beside her. She is constantly learning new things and spends many evenings searching websites of fellow artists looking for inspiration for her paintings.

When asked what the best advice she was ever given was, Carolene said her brother, John, once advised, "The art of beginning anything is difficult."

Carolene's paintings are currently on display at "Santos Y Mas" in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico. To aspiring artists, Carolene offers this advice: "Enjoy! Don't be afraid to listen to your inner



instincts which are of a power that goes much farther than any of us realize. We are a part of the Great Creator and true creativity comes from that great power within us. A part of yourself goes with your painting. To me, painting is spiritual."

To see more of her paintings go to <http://caroleneoftaos.fineartamerica> or e-mail her at [NMartist@taosnet.com](mailto:NMartist@taosnet.com).



# CAROLYN LANKFORD

## CLASSIC OIL PAINTINGS



**C**arolyn Lankford has always been artistic. During her childhood in rural East Texas, she knew she had the soul of an artist within, but it would be many years before she acknowledged it and gave it direction. Carolyn is now regarded as one of the premier landscape painters in the Southwest. Her use of bold, vivid colors and palette knife strokes transport viewers to the bright, colorful worlds she creates. Carolyn explains that she paints "to capture the soul of a place, to communicate its spirit and joy, and to strike a responsive chord so that the viewer feels he, too, knows this place."

After graduating high school, Carolyn studied anthropology and Russian history at the University of New Mexico, where she graduated *summa cum laude*, in 1974. She thought research and writing would fulfill her desire to be creative. She married her husband, Bill, an Air Force officer, and spent 20 years raising their daughter, Susan, and moving around the world. She continued to paint during this time, so much so, that when her paintings stacked up, she simply burned them. As time went on, Carolyn realized painting was her best creative outlet. After years of private lessons and workshops, and being taught by influential teachers, such as Carl Cogar of New Mexico and the late Hans Rensdorf of Colorado, in 1990 Carolyn became and continues to be a professional artist. Carolyn said she is known as an emotional painter -- she tries to convey, with color and light, the emotions that she feels about a place, "I feel intense emotions when I paint, and I only paint scenes that give me joy and pleasure."

Carolyn now sets aside days for painting. She goes to her studio in Ruidoso, New Mexico, and totally immerses herself in painting for days at a time. "No cooking, no laundry, no schedule -- just get lost in paintings. It's almost like living in another dimension for a while. My cat, Belle, goes with me," Carolyn explains. "Also, I don't watch the clock when I'm painting."

For all of her success as a painter, Carolyn wants to be best remembered as a good grandmother. She is extremely close to her 15-year-old grandson, Fox.

Carolyn's success as an artist comes when someone who has bought one of her paintings tells her how much joy it brings to them every day. The best advice Carolyn said she was ever given was by artist Ray Vinella of Taos who said, "Put it in with confidence and people will believe it." He was right. We believe.

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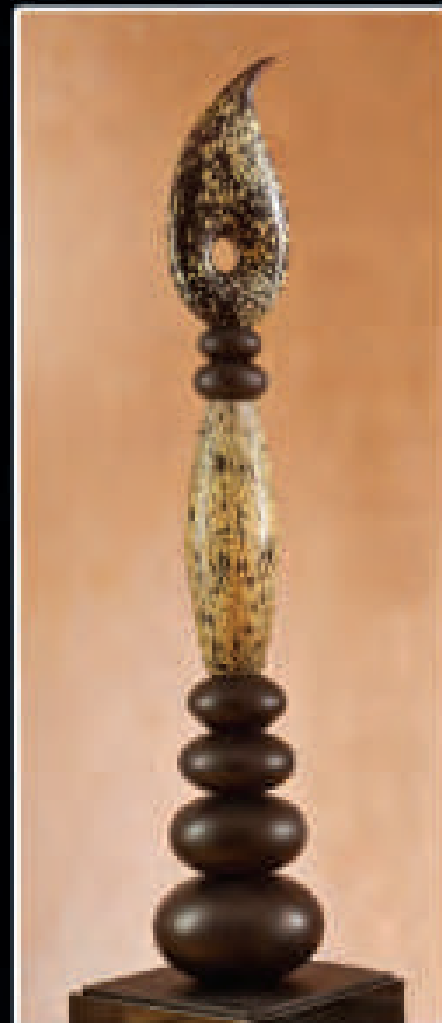
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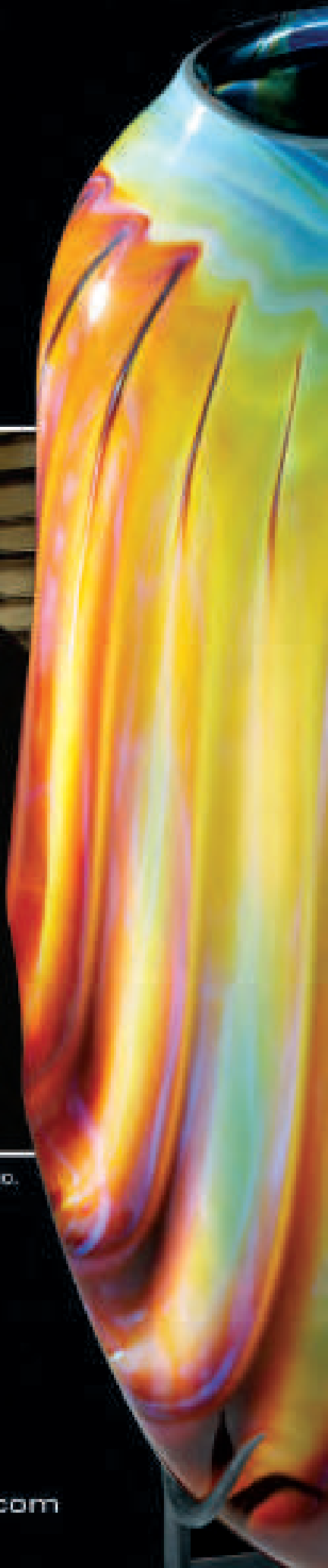
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# Gifted Hands Gallery

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Please meet just a handful of our great artists ...

**Mark Garcia** left the Pueblo to teach Anthropology at the University of Riverside in California. He has developed his own unique type of pottery, which is a combination of several Ancestral Native Styles.



**Josephine Coriz** is from one of the best known and recognized families from the Pueblo, for their outstanding jewelry making skills. From the time she was 8 years old, she learned to grind and drill the smallest of the Heishi beads.

"I never got to ride a bicycle or watch a movie - as there were always bowls of turquoise waiting for me to drill, after school."

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- \*Drilling: 5-6 days
- \*Stringing the delicate beads onto piano wire to shape: 2 weeks
- \*Re-stringing 25 strands of beads to make these "Liquid TQ" necklaces.

Josephine's late sister ~ **Ava Marie Coriz** is a recognized artist at the Smithsonian Native American Art Gallery, in D.C.



**Joe Chavez** took up Silversmithing in 1983, after being discharged from the Marine Corps. He is one of the few Kewas from the Pueblo that works primarily in Silver, similar to Navajo style. Joe is also a full time Rancher.



PLUS ~ we have ...

So many more fine artists we have no room to mention here! Please come and see our collection of over fifty Pueblo Jewelry & Pottery Makers

**Christina Reano**, in 1989, already a mother of two, decided to use her natural talents to start supporting her growing family. She was taught by her father-in-law, Sam Lavato, who was internationally recognized by the many movie celebrities. Among his works: Concha Belts for Elvis Presley & John Wayne.

Christina's own work has been worn on the Oprah and the Regis & Kelly TV shows.



Inside Gifted Hands Gallery

**Raymond Rosita** learned to make Thunderbird Necklaces out of used battery casings, at 10 years old, from his Grandfather. When his war-shocked son came home from Iraq, Ray passed his skills onto him. Both are known for their intricate inlaid jewelry.



## HOW IS TURQUOISE JEWELRY MADE ?

... and why New Mexicans are so proud of our Native American Artists



a picture is worth a thousand words ...

Handmade from scratch ~ Santo Domingo Pueblo Kewa Indian Artistry in the making



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THE TENORIO FAMILY IS FAMOUS FOR THEIR POTTERY AND HIGH-QUALITY INLAID JEWELRY.

# Northern New Mexico Glass Art

By Daniel Huberman

The world of fine art can truly be seen through the looking glass in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tucked in the southern most foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Santa Fe has been internationally revered for decades as the art hub of the southwestern United States. The town is endowed with a unique combination of striking scenery, deep cultural roots and a surreal variety of lifestyles. Internationally renowned artists and inspired native talent alike gravitate towards the unique high desert light of "The City Different."

With its artistically hospitable environment, a full spectrum of artistic movements has harbored and grown with the city. In the late 1960s, Santa Fe became a stronghold for the fledgling studio art-glass movement, a unique emergence of artists with three-dimensional visions using glass as their medium for expression.

Widely recognized artist and mentor Charlie Miner works out of his studio and gallery, Tesuque Glassworks. "If you look at the history, most of the glass blowers in Santa Fe can be traced back to the first shop on Canyon Road (Glory Hole Glassworks)," explained Charlie. "I'm just a tentacle of that. It's like a family tree." Through that line of pioneers and mentors, the area saw the beginnings of a strong and talented artistic community.



Charles V. Miner:  
Shapeshifter  
Clear glass  
28" w x 15" h x 5" d



Glory Hole Glassworks was New Mexico's first hot glass studio. Opened by Mel Knowles and Jack Miller in 1968, the Glory Hole brought the seeds of American art-glass to the Southwest just six years after the inception of the movement. In a time when most of the country had never seen a piece of art-glass, the artists who would fuel the fire of the movement were already honing their skills in Santa Fe. Even Dale Chihuly, artist and founder of the Pilchuck Glass School, sculpted glass at the Glory Hole. Charlie joined the studio in 1972 and has been learning, producing and teaching glass art ever since.

Charlie loosely modeled his hot shop and gallery after Glory Hole Glassworks by making it an open studio where, in addition to students and assistants who make the process possible, tourists and members of the community are welcomed to witness the magic of art-glass. Still, while open studios like Tesuque Glassworks provide a window into the crafting of this unique material, a mystique still enshrouds the art form. "What's really amazing about the small studio glass movement is the feeling that you can collect something that not everybody knows about," offered Charlie.

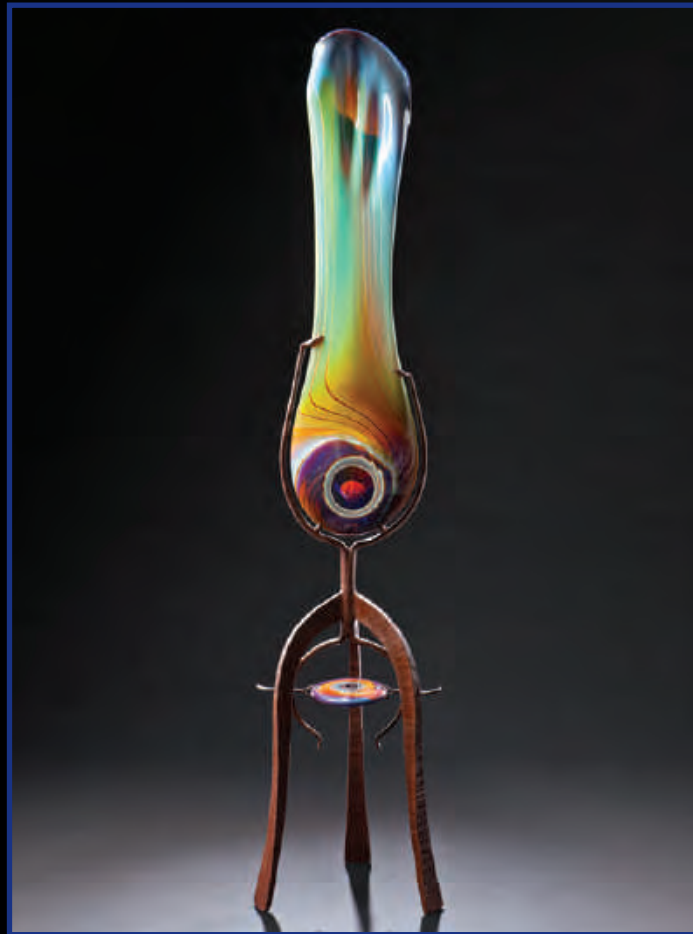
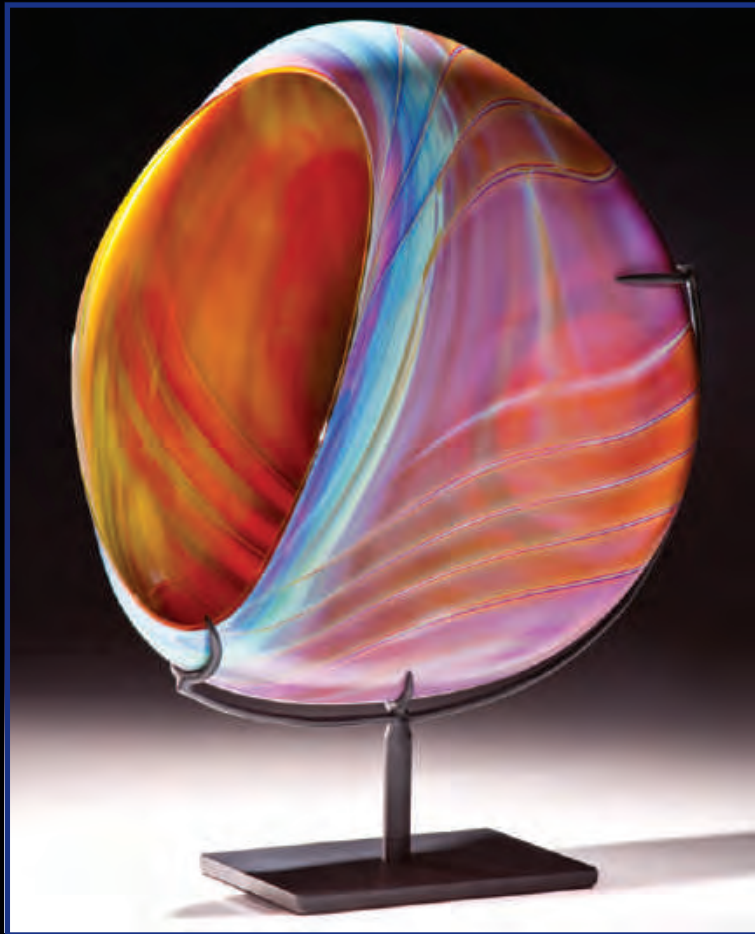
The striking works of art being produced in and around Santa Fe command such a presence when displayed that even those who know very little or nothing about the materials or processes will be awestruck by the final products. Charlie's gallery is filled with fine works of art-glass representing a variety of styles. Tesuque Glassworks is just one of many hot glass shops in the area where artists create and display fine art-glass. Centrally located in the bustling Baca Street Studios, artist Elodie Holmes runs her hot shop and gallery, Liquid Light Glass.

Elodie moved to Santa Fe in 1981 after attending school at the California College of Arts and Crafts where she learned about both glass and ceramics. "I came here to run the glass shop on Canyon Road," said Elodie. It was the same shop where Charlie Miner got his start. Both Elodie and Charlie have since adopted the open studio approach that they were imprinted with on Canyon Road.

Elodie explained the lure of working in an open studio. "My door is open. It's a big garage door, and it draws people in. We reach out to the community and get them involved, and it's been very successful. When we do classes, people come in and see it, experience the heat and the smells, and go home with something exciting. Their faces light up and you can tell that they really get it."



While many artists choose to work in a closed studio where they can focus on production without interruption, Elodie strongly believes the benefits of the open studio substantially outweigh the distractions. The open studio encourages participation and builds community involvement. "We have world class artists here, when combined with the educational opportunities available and the world class experience of Santa Fe itself, it all just comes together. I couldn't have dreamed this up, it's so perfect!"



In addition to Charlie and Elodie, Santa Fe is home to many other artists and styles of glasswork. Resident Lucy Lyon is known for her figurative cast glass. Patrick Morrissey operates Prairie Dog Glass, another open studio featuring an affordable product line, unique setting, assorted artists and classes. Cia Friedrich, who works at Liquid Light with Elodie, is known for her eclectic expressionism.



While many artists create large scale works of art that include a custom stand or pedestal to properly display their form and beauty, others have focused on smaller applications for art-glass. Santa Fe artist Donna Nova teaches and creates intricate lampworked beads at her studio. Donna's beads take on a range of shapes and styles. Ranging from her elegant and realistic series of glass leaves to her beautiful abstractions like the 'Galaxy Bead', Donna's works retain their individual elegance whether displayed at a gallery or worn to the opera.

With many of the local artists having stemmed from the same family tree, it is not surprising that Charlie, Elodie and other fine glassworkers of Santa Fe feel a sense of community and enjoy helping each other.



Still, running a hot shop is expensive and takes a lot of hard work, frequently leaving the artists too busy to collaborate on larger scale outreach and education. "We were all too busy running our own businesses, but that was before Glass Alliance-New Mexico took shape," Elodie explained. Glass Alliance-New Mexico is a non-profit organization whose mission is to further the development and appreciation of contemporary studio art-glass.

Founded in 2006, Glass Alliance-New Mexico has grown exponentially, while bringing great benefits to the community. Elodie expressed her gratitude for the Alliance, "Now we are unified across the state. That's been a really cool thing. A lot of glass alliances across the country are exclusively collector alliances. Ours is made up of collectors, artists and gallery owners because we all have to work together to make it happen."

Five years later, the Alliance has improved business for local artists, brought international artists to town with its Maestro programs and is developing communications strategies for the evolving information era. Twitter, Facebook and Quick Response codes are all on the itinerary for the Alliance. With all the technology utilized to help grow the organization, the root motivation remains the art-glass itself.



Bringing its unique combination of artists, experience and educational opportunities, the Santa Fe glass scene is attractively accessible. Currently gaining momentum with the support of Glass Alliance-New Mexico, the small studio art-glass movement is evolving with prismatic elegance. Whether you are an accountant who would like to craft your own paperweight, an aspiring artist looking for art-glass opportunity, or simply an artfully minded human wishing to see the cutting edge of what might be the most elegant material on the planet, the art-glass community in Santa Fe will take you there. The crystal ball is showing a bright future for world class glass in Santa Fe.



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# Jane Seymour



Face  
of an  
Angel

by Rima Krisst

Jane Showing Heart Artwork

**J**ane Seymour is truly a modern Renaissance woman. Over her lifetime, she has diversified, polished and perfected her many creative talents and endeavors. Her list of accomplishments is nothing short of awe-inspiring. The award-winning actress and producer has enjoyed a prolific career in film and television that began in 1969, and has flourished over two decades. To this day, she continues to be offered many choice acting roles and has several film projects in development with her husband, director and producer James Keach.

Seymour is also an expert painter, dancer, jewelry and furniture-designer, published author, professional speaker and businesswoman. She has created a jewelry line, in collaboration with Kay Jewelers, based on her Open Hearts series of paintings, a beauty line, a home design line and more. She also has her own fine-art publishing company and art gallery, where she exhibits her work in multiple one-woman shows per year, which often travel on to some of the world's most renowned galleries for exhibition.

You might say Seymour has a charmed life, and she does, but she has worked hard to earn her success, and has suffered and overcome many heartbreaks along the way, including recovering from a high-profile divorce, betrayal and financial ruin. Born in a suburb of London, she is the daughter of Mieke and John Benjamin Frankenberg, an obstetrician, who have now passed on. While Seymour says she was loved and well-cared for as a child, she most certainly came from humble beginnings, and her family experienced many significant challenges. Seymour often speaks to her mother's struggles, and

how deeply she influenced her life and her character. Among the traumatic events that her mother survived was an internment in a Japanese concentration camp in Indonesia for over three years during World War II. Seymour describes that her mother always stayed positive and advised her children to keep their hearts open, most especially in times of great adversity.

As a gorgeous up-and-coming actress, Seymour first drew world-wide attention and praise as Bond Girl "Solitaire" in *Live and Let Die* (1973). After numerous film and television successes, she went on to play one of her most well-known and popular roles as Dr. Michaela "Mike" Quinn in the TV series, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* (1993–2001), through which she met her fourth husband, actor-director, James Keach. They have fifteen-year-old twins, Johnny and Kris, named after family friends, Johnny Cash and Christopher Reeve. Seymour also has two children, Katherine and Sean, with former husband David Flynn, and is stepmother to Jenni, Flynn's daughter, and Kalen, Keach's son. According to Seymour, wife and mother are the most important roles in her life.

In 2005, Seymour captured the attention and delight of fans with her racy portrayal of a seductress in the movie, *Wedding Crashers*, with Owen Wilson and Christopher Walken. Defying her age, her classic, timeless beauty and enduring physique once again riveted audiences. She was also a contestant on season five of the U.S. reality show, *Dancing with the Stars*, where she finished in sixth place with her partner, Tony Dovolani. If all of that weren't enough, Seymour has written several books, including most recently, *Among Angels*, an



The Artist in Her English Garden, oil on canvas, 24" x 36"



The Heart Soars, oil on canvas, 30" x 24"

inspirational compilation of testimony and quotations about the presence and work of angels among people. *Among Angels* was a sequel to her book, *Open Hearts*. Seymour credits her mother's philosophy on life for the original inspiration for the *Open Hearts* concept, and also believes her mother's spirit is still present with her. She tells of the story that when her mother died in a nursing home, a white feather appeared on the floor. At that exact moment, just underneath the portrait of her mother at her home, one that Seymour painted, a white feather also appeared. Since that time, Seymour says that white feathers have appeared regularly, particularly at times when she feels her mother would have liked to have been present. Seymour also credits her own near-death experience with turning her life around in her thirties. After a bout with bronchitis, Seymour went into anaphylactic shock from a reaction to a misplaced antibiotic shot. As with many near-death testimonies, she says that she saw the white light and a tunnel, and then left her body. She was then able to observe her body on the hotel bed and the nurse working to resuscitate her. When she returned to her body, she says the whole experience shifted her priorities and profoundly changed her perspective on life, and, ironically, made her less afraid of death and more confident in living life to the fullest.

## [Jane Seymour Interview](#)

**You are gifted with so many talents -- what endeavors are capturing your focus these days?**

**JS:** You know, it really changes almost every day, but at the moment I've been playing some fun roles, and





Jane Painting with Red Hat

in the movie we're filming now, I was asked to dance again, so I've been doing some serious dancing and lifts with a bunch of eighteen-year-olds! It's all for a musical called Elixir for ABC Family Channel that will come out in April. I play a choreographer and I have a major dance number in the beginning of the film. I've been so excited working up to it, and I pulled it off, so that's rewarding. I'm experiencing something I never thought I'd get to do, and to do at this time in my life is really wonderful. So, I've been singing and dancing and pretending to be like a Lady Gaga!

**You most definitely defy your age. What are your biggest tips and secrets to staying so beautiful, healthy, and fit?**

**JS:** I exercise -- I do Pilates, Gyrotonics and Aerobics. I stretch a great deal. I drink a lot of water. I try to eat healthy meals. I eat a lot of organic vegetables and whole grains and I try to stay away from fried foods. I don't overindulge in things like alcohol and I don't smoke, and I just try to take care of myself. I'm not on any special diet. I just eat sensibly. I very occasionally will have some steak, but mostly I eat a lot of fish, and some chicken -- a lot of protein, fresh vegetables and fresh fruits.

**What is most important to you in your each and every day?**

**JS:** My family. Absolutely, my family, and being there for them. I get up every day and each day is a different day. I'm very open-minded to what that day will bring and what I need to do and what I enjoy. I don't take anything for granted. Each day's a special day.



The Celestial Feather, watercolor with pen and ink on paper, 9" x 12"

**You are a very accomplished painter. Are you self-taught or did you have formal training?**

**JS:** Not really formal training, per say, but there are some wonderful artists that I've met along the way who have painted with me, who've shown me demos, shared what they're doing and given me ideas. Mostly, I'm self-taught. I always painted as a child. I had a pretty good art-education in high school in England. I've always been a creative person. From painting to making clothes to designing houses, I've expressed myself artistically through art in some form throughout my life.



Angel with Three Open Hearts, Doves and Flowers, watercolor with pen and ink on paper, 12 1/8 x 9"

**How did you cultivate your style of painting? Who are your biggest inspirations in terms of fine-artists? What are your favorite subjects to paint?**

**JS:** I'm constantly cultivating my style. I end up doing different styles, depending on what it is I'm painting. I love to paint the character of a flower, which is very realistic, and I also like to do abstractions like the Open Hearts images. I am a great lover of impressionist art, and very much enjoy the use of color and texture. I love Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent, when it comes to portraits. As an actress, I can see the spirit of somebody, and I like to capture that in a painting. I like to paint dancers because of the way they move their bodies and the way they hold themselves. I also like to paint mothers and children because I've been a mother on many occasions and I think that magical bond with a child is very unique and special.

**Your first Open Hearts image has spawned a whole series, from paintings to sculpture and jewelry. What was the source of inspiration for that first painting?**

**JS:** The first heart that I did was just a single heart that I left open. I was originally asked to do a campaign for women's heart health. My instinct was that if your heart is open you can let go of anything negative in your life and be open and receptive to something new. I really thought about my mother's inspiration -- that when you're able to open your heart and reach out to another open heart, something wonderful can happen in that connection. There's always someone worse off than you, however tough your life is. When I was doodling around with a single heart, I joined two hearts, and I realized it almost

had the shape of a woman's body. I liked it so much I registered it immediately and, believe it or not, nobody had ever registered that image before. The joined open hearts idea came to me on the back of a napkin, literally. I believe when open hearts link to one another, it becomes like an open hearts family. It never ends, and I constantly come up with more ideas.

**Once again, genius is found in simplicity, and the Open Hearts philosophy is a great example of that.**

**JS:** I think people interpret it in many different ways. The really nice thing about it is that it's very much a way of seeing and experiencing life, and when you love somebody or you can love with an open heart I think you can really process change and be there for someone else. By doing that, love does come into your heart. It's a very simple concept. The interesting thing is that when you start reading the literature, in every spiritual text of every sort and every faith, every author or story-teller speaks to opening your heart. It's a universal symbol for giving and receiving love.

**Do you believe in angels and that you are personally guided?**

**JS:** I don't think it's as simple as that. I don't not believe in things. I am very open minded. But definitely some extraordinary things have happened to me and people close to me, which I not only believe, but I have experienced. Whether it's an angel or a spirit or it's a sensation, I've put it under the heading of an "Angel." For example, the story that I tell about my mother and the ever-present white feathers. There are a lot of extraordinary things that happen to people and some people are aware of them, acknowledge them, and are moved by them, and some people ignore them and never see them. I think extraordinary things do happen and because it's a part of the great mystery of life, and I enjoy the fact that it's a mystery.

**You yourself have had a near death experience?**

**JS:** Yes, I went into anaphylactic shock. I came back because they gave me the right drugs to resuscitate me, but in the process, I did leave my body. I saw my body and I was separate from it. It was a very extraordinary experience. The great lesson for me was that it simplified my life and it really made me realize that any of us who think that things are important, money or prestige or power, are not on the right track -- it's not about that. It's really about the love you've shared and the difference you can make and that's it. Can you love yourself and can you be loved by other people?

**You were close friends with Johnny Cash and Christopher Reeve. Can you talk a bit about the importance of these friendships?**

**JS:** Johnny and June were amazing people. We met them on Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, when they were acting on the show. My husband, James, and I became very close friends with them. At that time, Johnny said that somebody would make a movie about his life. He didn't really trust anyone, but he felt that we might have an idea of what the film would be about. So he entrusted my husband with the project, and James told him that he thought his story would be most powerful if it told about redemption. James had a vision of telling Johnny's story to include the ups and downs of his life, his deep spiritual connection and love that he shared with his wife, and the



## The Beauty of Inspiration

Jane Showing Artwork on Wall

fact that people who make bad choices and go down a deep dark tunnel can actually come back out. The movie that was eventually made is called Walk the Line and it won an Oscar and Golden Globe. Christopher Reeve and I stayed really good friends since filming Somewhere in Time. Especially after his accident, I talked to him frequently and met up with him when possible. We would talk about life and love and what mattered most and we had a very special connection. I miss him enormously. He's a perfect example of someone who lived with an open heart. He turned his situation into an opportunity. He refused to accept the fact that it was impossible to regenerate the spine, and that there was no funding for research in this area. He proved his point in that he ended up being the great champion for stem cell research, which is really the future of medicine today. Because of him, people who have had his injury can now move and some of them are walking.

**The romantic film Somewhere in Time, which starred you and Christopher, has become somewhat of a cult classic time-travel love story. Did you believe this film would have such a lasting impact on people?**

**JS:** I had no idea it was going to be this powerful. When I first read the script it was powerful for me. It was a very simple little movie, with a very low budget. Just like the open heart, there's a simplicity to the movie, which speaks to almost every culture. For example, in Asia, this movie is huge. People love this film and many say it's a chick flick, but it's really the men that love the movie most. And women love the fact that men love this movie. The spirit of the movie, whatever you believe, is something that I think we all would love to believe. That is, when you love someone, you don't necessarily need to be with them all

the time, but that love transcends time and space.

**Are there any particular projects, film or otherwise, that you would like to accomplish in coming years?**

**JS:** I am sure there will be lots of really great ones. I read potential scripts and proposals all the time, and we've got about six movies in development with our company, PCH Films. Currently, we're doing a documentary about Glen Campbell and Alzheimer's disease, and that's been an extraordinary experience, getting to know him and his family really well.

**In these really tough economic times, where people are seriously suffering, what do you say to those who've lost their jobs or are otherwise down and out? How would you encourage them?**

**JS:** There are people who give up, and there are people who go "it's not fair, it's not right," and then there are people who, literally, in the face of unbelievable adversity, are my heroes. They are the people who turn around and go "my neighbor is more needy than I am," and focus on someone less fortunate than themselves. I see it every day. There are people that just go, "you know what, maybe I can study something new?" "Maybe I can become a teacher?" "Maybe I can help these young mothers who are having a hard time helping raising their children?" "Maybe I can cook a meal for someone in need down the street?" When you see a need and you fill a need and you help out, people might say gosh, you're really good at that, and before you know it you might even make a living from it. You never know what you might be good at. My point is, in the giving there is receiving. We all have to look out-of-the-box, and ask ourselves, "what else can I do?", rather than staying stuck in "this is what



Radiant Open Heart Angel II., watercolor with pen and ink on paper, 10" x 8"

"I'm supposed to do, or this is what I deserve to do." My advice is don't live in the past. Live in the present moment. Look around and consider what needs to be done now.

**You've found a way to live your life in the moment and to be creative and compassionate toward others, and you've diversified yourself endlessly. One of your most powerful messages is that life is holistic, and unlimited in some ways, and the creativity can be taken in any direction. And, you've also found a way to sustain an abundant life. What would you share about your life with other people that might give them hope?**

**JS:** My life is an extraordinary life, and I recognize that. I've had good fortune in many ways. However, I didn't come from anything. I came from loving parents who survived World War II, and had no money. I did not have a silver spoon in my mouth. Anything and everything I've created in my life, I've done myself, but in a way that's a gift. In fact, most people I know who've earned success in life have overcome adversity. I suppose the message is that, in a funny way, if something really bad happens to you, invariably there's a gift there that you might be unaware of. If you're tenacious, and you keep your spirits, and you do your best, and you come from a place of love, chances are that some solution will arise and you will find the reason for what has happened to you and, with any luck, your purpose and fulfillment as well. We all have to remember that there's always the potential to turn some of life's greatest challenges into our greatest opportunities. That's something my mother would have told me, and she was right.

For more on Jane Seymour, her fine art and the Open Hearts community, please visit: [www.janeseymour.com](http://www.janeseymour.com).



Jane painting in room

# Larry Kerr



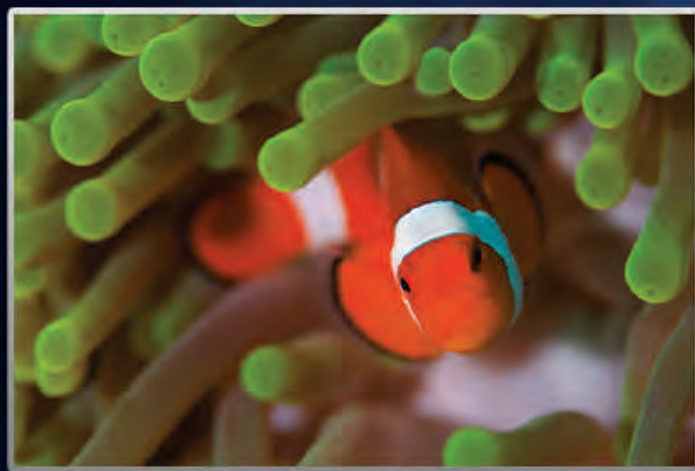
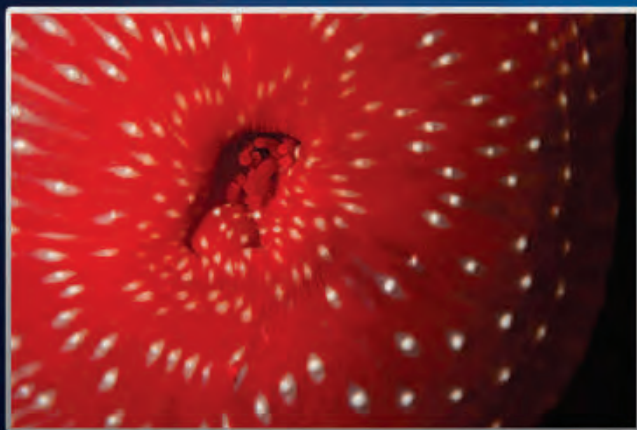
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Photo courtesy of Kim Jew



## Nina K Cullen Fine Art

Nina Kolarek-Cullen is one of the most refreshing and compelling painters, known for her oil and acrylic painting to which she often likes to add unique specialty finishes. Her canvases appeal to those whose inclinations tilt toward traditional realism, as well as the lovers of contemporary abstracts, "I believe my being a self taught artist is what gives me my own individual voice."

Born in Croatia, Nina's interest in art began at the age of 4 when her favorite toys were colored pencils. Later at the age of 11, she did her first oil painting, which won first prize in her school competition and was purchased by the school principal as an anniversary gift for his wife. Nina continued her education in Switzerland and did some painting in her spare time but decided to pursue a career in fashion design.

Nina studied fashion design in London where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. She then moved to New York and established her "Nina K" label. She became an award winning designer and "Nina K" was one of the leading fashion labels of the 90's.

After a decade in New York, Nina relocated to Los Angeles to continue fashion design and later established her interior design business. As much as she enjoyed seeing women looking great in her creations, she also enjoyed designing and remodeling high-end homes and seeing her clients happy with their beautiful new interiors and exteriors. But all along, Nina's first love and passion, fine art, was always beckoning. She now enjoys the fulfillment of pursuing it as a full-time career.

"I believe my extensive travels throughout the world have given me the inspiration for my landscapes. I love to paint beautiful scenery where the viewer will want to just walk right into the painting. Also, my husband, Paul, is a golf enthusiast and while riding with him in the golf cart, I realized how much beauty there is on the golf course, which has inspired me to paint a series of golf courses," Nina explained.

"I am a lover of nature and by spending quite a bit of time in South Africa I was drawn to paint a variety of wild animals in their environment. And recently, I have been getting quite a few commission requests to paint pet portraits, particularly dogs and cats. I find that very enjoyable because, after all, they are very important family members."

And then there are abstracts for which Nina has a special passion. They bring her back to her original roots -- design. When doing commission work, she draws upon her background in design to determine the best colors and shapes that will complement the space, "I believe a painting should be the jewelry for the wall." For Nina, the best and most fun part of being an artist is the design strategy, "being able to decide not only what to paint, but how I want the subjects to be seen by the viewer!"

You can see more of Nina's work at  
[www.ninakcullen.com](http://www.ninakcullen.com)

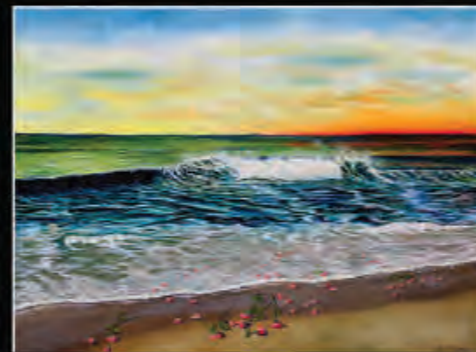
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*Randy Bryant is a master jeweler. He and Linda, his wife of 19 years, reside in Midland, Texas. Their son, Michael, and his wife, Cymbre, have one son and are happily awaiting the birth of their daughter.*

**Define your approach to creating jewelry.**

I like to work with nice stones and I like them to be the focal point of the piece. As an artist, I feel it is my job to unlock the stone's natural beauty. I then decide which metals, textures and accent stones should be used. The majority of my work features hand fabricated settings built around stones that I have cut. Many of the settings include double and triple overlay, with mixed metals in which I include a variety of texturing methods. I sometimes will design a piece in wax and have it cast.

**How and when did you start?**

I have always liked rocks and fossils since I was a child. I moved to West Texas in 1979 and in the mid-80's I joined the Midland Gem & Mineral Society. I signed up for a lapidary class and later on a silversmithing class that taught the basics of rock cutting/polishing and silversmithing. I think that was the best \$50.00 that I ever spent! I have been cutting stones and silversmithing for about 25 years now.

**What was your first artistic inspiration?**

I saw Ray Tracey's work in Santa Fe in the late 80's and was awed by his inlay work and designs.

**What or who inspires you today? Why?**

Good stones and good music...I like to get in the studio and turn up the music and focus. Blocking out distractions really helps me create great pieces and having top quality material to work with is a blessing.

**What is the best advice you were ever given?**

A jeweler friend of mine told me to always use the best stones that I could afford. I started off as a stone cutter after taking that first lapidary class. I always enjoy cutting great material. As I got into jewelry design and my friend gave this advice, I realized how important this was. Having top quality stones always helps your jewelry to stand apart from the rest.

**What mediums do you work with?**

Some of the metals are sterling silver, 14kt and 18kt and 22kt gold, Mokume Gane and fine quality precious and semi-precious gems.

**Do you have a favorite style to work in?**

I don't have a particular style that I like best. I try to do what the stone needs to best set it off. I guess if you were to categorize my work, you could call it Contemporary Southwest Art Jewelry. My favorite materials to work with are opals, ammonite, turquoise and fossils in high carat gold.

**What's the best thing about being a jeweler?**

I love cutting into a stone and being the first one to see what is on the inside. It's a little bit of a treasure hunt, you never know what you might find.

**How do you feel after you have finished creating a piece of jewelry?**

Very satisfied, and I have a sense of accomplishment, knowing that I made something that someone will have and enjoy for a very long time. I also find it fascinating out of all the pieces that I create who will end up with that particular piece and which ones will sell first or last.

**Do you work on commission? If so, what is the best way to contact you?**

Yes, I do work on commission. I would be glad to design something special for you or a loved one. The best way to get in contact with me is by e-mail at [rb612@grandecom.net](mailto:rb612@grandecom.net) or by phone at 432-694-3822. You can see some of my work at [www.rbryant1jewelry.com](http://www.rbryant1jewelry.com).

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**R**ick Hill sculpts bronze masterpieces. He is a 1976 graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and attended Santa Monica City College, the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena and Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, and he is a member of the National Sculpture Society and National Museum of Wildlife. A Pennsylvania native, Rick grew up in Erie, near the shores of Lake Erie. Job opportunities led Rick to Los Angeles where he worked as a graphic designer for 27 years and retired from Boeing Aircraft. Rick and Debra, his wife of 29 years, reside in Los Angeles.

**When did you realize you could create such magnificent bronze sculptures?**

About 12 years ago I took a class in Santa Monica, California, on how to build armatures. That ignited my passion.

**You excel at sculpting both humans and wildlife. Do you prefer one over the other?**

While I love doing both western Indians and cowboys and trying to capture facial features, there is something so special about wildlife that I love to get my hands and heart into.



Seneca Warrior



Sleepy

**What was your first sculpture and what was the inspiration for it?**

My first sculpture was an Indian bust called, "Bear Hunter." I'm so fascinated by the culture of the Southwest.

**What is your creative process from start to finish?**

I start by feeling a design or form in my soul and then I start building an armature. Then I add the clay as I go. I usually have soft jazz music on in the background. I get completely lost in my work. I stand there for hours, turning my easel around trying to get the piece just right at every angle.

**What materials do you use?**

Oil-based clay, it's malleable. I can work on a piece for months and reshape it to the point where it just feels good.

**Who inspires you today?**

Of course, my family inspires me, and I love the pieces of Sandy Scott, Ken Rowe, Scott Rogers, John Coleman and Dan Ostermiller--I love the way they capture the spirit of a piece.

**Do you have a favorite style?**

Simple elegance of design, loose, not too detailed.

**What was the best advice you were ever given and by whom?**

My Dad told me whatever I do, give it your best. It's the advice I use every time I start a piece.

**What feedback has meant the most to you? What was it and who gave it to you?**

Once I was having one of my pieces critiqued in class and the instructor was telling me all the little

# Rick Hill

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things that would make the piece look better. That really taught me something--they made sense.

**How do you name your sculptures?**

It takes me a while to come up with a name. I write all my ideas on the sculpture board until the words and the piece fit together. I let the piece tell me what its name is.

**Do you have separation anxiety when you part with one of your beautiful bronzes?**

Not at all! I love seeing people go home with my work. It fulfills the piece's destiny and that makes me feel good.

**Do you work on commission? If so, what is the best way to reach you?**

Yes, and I can be reached via my website [www.rickhillbronze.com](http://www.rickhillbronze.com) or email me at: [rahill@earthlink.net](mailto:rahill@earthlink.net)

**What is your proudest artistic achievement?**

It has to be having this article read by my Dad. He inspired me to go to college even though it was hard for him to finance it.

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# ROMERO'S JEWELER



Kay Frances is an accomplished master jewelry designer and owner of Romero's Jeweler and K. Frances Designs in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A native New Mexican, born in Roswell and raised in Albuquerque, Kay has been designing for 30 years. She has created such diverse custom jewelry as cufflinks for the King of Spain, rings for the University of New Mexico (UNM)'s Hall of Honor, a White Sox World Series ring, pins and watches for the

Great Western Zone of State Farm and her favorite, a silver-plated "Lobo" logo for UNM's tennis club.

Kay attended UNM majoring in art and music and studied jewelry design and gemology at the Gemology Institute of America. She gained experience as an apprentice with master jewelers and worked as a sub-contractor for other jewelry designers and large companies.

She currently specializes in creating custom jewelry and works closely with clients who request her expertise for custom one-of-a-kind designs. She has a distinctive style that blends modern with traditional and southwestern with classic. Design ideas come to her from her wealth of knowledge and experience. She is inspired by the stories of love and devotion from the people she has the honor to create works of art with.

She works out of her quaint abode studio among Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza, where she is surrounded by a host of artisans in the 150 shops, restaurants and galleries. Old Town has been known as the cultural and spiritual center of Albuquerque since 1708.

Once Kay has a clear idea in mind, she draws the design and carves a wax model. She sculpts each wax piece by hand. Kay specializes in gold, platinum and silver adorned with precious and semi-precious stones. "Precious metals are energy amplifiers. Yellow gold harnesses the warmth of the sun, rose gold enhances spirituality and white gold channels the energies of both the sun and the moon," Kay explained. A team of experts aid in the process of creating the finished jewelry design: the piece is cast, the stones are set, then the

finished product is polished. "When I see someone's facial expression that now they have something they could only imagine, it brings me the greatest joy and fulfillment!" she exclaimed.

In addition to creating custom jewelry, Kay creates unique oil paintings. "In September of 2010, I watched a Flamenco troop dance and from that day on, the image played over and over in my head," she said. "I painted the bailaora (dancer) in oil colors bright red to show the power of her dance and her determination of each step." Kay's creations are on exhibit exclusively at Romero's Jeweler and K Frances Designs, in Albuquerque.

"We appreciate and respect local business," Kay said. "That's why we support Women of Influence to help promote female business people, and being a native New Mexican, we support local business to promote statewide growth." Kay is a community activist. Most recently, she was a silver sponsor of the "Women of Influence" in the New Mexico Business Weekly magazine, she created and donated a fabulously designed diamond and white gold ring for auction for the March of Dimes' "High Heels for High Hopes." She and her staff spent hours on the phone fundraising. Kay volunteers time and service to Joy Junction and donates to the Barrett House Foundation and for Voice for Children. Kay sponsored and participated in the "Pink Tie" event in support of the American Cancer Society's "making strides against Cancer."

"The community is why we are here and why we continue to thrive. My personal inspiration comes from my gratefulness for my family, staff, friends and customers," Kay emphasized. "Each and everyone has their own gift to give to the world and I count myself lucky to be a part of life's celebrated moments."

Kay invites you to be a part of her social network on Facebook at Romero's Jeweler.

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By Rima Krisst



Ernie Montoya, owner of Sunwest Silver Company, examines a chunk of turquoise.

**S**unwest Silver Co., Inc. is located in a spot you might not expect, right in the heart of Albuquerque's business district at the corner of 4th Street and Lomas Boulevard, across the street from the looming Federal Courthouse. When you step into the 2,000' retail showroom, you will be dazzled by the selection and might not have any idea that this is the tip of the iceberg for the diverse operations that are all under that single roof.

Sunwest Silver is a favorite shopping spot for countless collectors, dealers, jewelers and shoppers looking for the unique. At any given time, you can see them all -- like kids in a candy store pouring over the vast treasures in every case, including high-end bracelets, bolos, necklaces, earrings, rings, belt-buckles, as well

as a wide selection of Native American pottery, fetishes, leather goods and more. In addition, there is a private collection, which is a type of inner sanctum with an endless supply of turquoise and even a collection of one-of-a-kind sparkling geodes. Buckets full of turquoise nuggets from various mines are lined up for viewing -- the potential material for literally hundreds of thousands of jewelry pieces.

From traditional turquoise blue to electric green, pale sky blue to white, and everything in between, with a variety of matrix qualities (veining), there is something for everyone in this unparalleled collection. Every uncut chunk of turquoise is different and has its own indelible quality and is hand-picked by Sunwest Silver's owner, Ernie Montoya. Ernie prefers to stay behind the scenes and has a team of devoted employees who he calls



family. Ernie's office is practically an art museum, with breathtaking one-of-a-kind pieces lining the walls and filling display boxes.

An Albuquerque native, Ernie, is a leading authority in the turquoise world, owning several turquoise mines in Nevada, the most prominent being the Carico Lake Turquoise mine. He is therefore his own supplier, hence the abundant and ever-plentiful inventory of choice turquoise. He supplies premier stones to be cut in the hands of masters.

A self-made man who is a legend in the Southwest jewelry industry, Ernie got his start in the business in the early 1970s, when there was a boom in the Native American jewelry trade, influenced by the fashion of the times. Believe it or not, some of this was inspired by celebrities like Jimi Hendrix, who was part Native American and donned Indian jewelry, from "Warrior Collars" to squash-blossom necklaces and turquoise rings. The movie, *Urban Cowboy*, also featured Native American inspired accessories and jewelry and is credited for influencing the uptick in the market. Times were good then, and the price of silver was affordable. The U.S. market could barely keep up with production to meet demand for the Native American silver products. Ernie has adapted to many changes in the jewelry market over the decades he has been in business. He has been viewed as a trendsetter in the frontier of jewelry production and sales, which has been forced to evolve as material costs have fluctuated widely such as in the 1980's when silver prices spiked.

Ernie attributes his success to the ability to stay diversified. He started as a serious player in the silver market when he purchased a charm line, which

ultimately served many major clients, including Walt Disney, Hanna Barbera and Warner Bros. Today, he owns over 4,000 charm molds. He also invested in "Heishi," which means shell, and refers to pieces of shell that have been drilled and hand rolled or ground into bead shapes and strung as necklaces. Heishi originated with the Santo Domingo and San Felipe Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. He began in the trade of Native American handmade jewelry as well as the production of in-laid jewelry, prompting his entry into the turquoise, coral, semi-precious and precious stone markets.

Ernie works with approximately 120 contract silversmiths to sustain his inventory. Approximately 90 percent of those are Native American artists, including some of the most renowned in the business like Carl Clark, Kirk Smith, Jennifer Curtis, Thomas Curtis, Arnold Blackgoat, Sunshine Reeves, Leon Martinez, Terry Martinez, Calvin Martinez, Rick Martinez, Wes Willy, Ronnie Willie, Stacey Turpen and Tommy Jackson, just to name a few. Other collectible Southwest artists



Ernie Montoya with his two daughters Paula Serda (left) and Angela Montoya (right)



Silver offers a variety of price ranges from the high-end collector's pieces by award-winning artists, whose work is so labor intensive that they can only make a few pieces a year, to the simple and lovely pieces that make great gifts.

Says Ernie, "Our stones have to be perfect. My business is based on providing the highest quality for a reasonable price and I have to maintain that reputation. Customers count on me for that." Sunwest Silver now does business worldwide. From Canada, Europe, Asia to the Middle East, Ernie is known for selling the best authentic Southwestern silver and turquoise products. In addition to upholding and preserving the market for Southwest jewelry, Ernie helps to preserve the local cottage industry. The finest artisans rely on him for contract work and the best materials, and he relies on them for the best product.

Says Master Indian artist Carl Clark (Navajo), "Ernie Montoya is the King of Turquoise in our eyes, the source of the highest quality turquoise I've ever seen. He is highly reputable, and his word is good. He is a fair man and helps artists like myself maintain the market for our goods."

For more on Sunwest Silver, visit: [www.sunwestsilver.com](http://www.sunwestsilver.com).

include, but are not limited to, Mona Van Riper, Andrew Valdez, Leo Feeney, Daniel P. Kronberg, Annelise Williamson, Bruce Eckhardt and Ray Winner.

Hiring these highly experienced artists ensures that Montoya always has a large supply of the best jewelry available. Ernie enjoys being able to help artists, especially up-and-coming young silversmiths who need a chance to get started. He likes encouraging the youth and helping the community. He even offers coaching if someone has potential, but still needs more training. Says Ernie, "I try to give everyone a chance and look at everything that comes through the door." Sunwest



Ernie's Angels... Left to right

Carolyn Maberry, Evadel Garcia, Vernice Smith, Manuela Zarate Munoz, Van Phan, Carmen Renteria, Pamela Gautreau, Ernest Montoya, Claire Sandoval, Guadalupe Miranda, Angela Montoya, Paula Montoya, Soledad Fernandez and Rosalie Saenz