

Read quotes from artists featured in the show, either in jewelry displays or in the videos. How does their jewelry express their ideas? What do you think about when you are creating something?

SOUTHWEST COAST ARTISTS Page 1



Harvey Begay
Navajo

As I began designing things that were similar to my father's but different, I gained confidence. My inspiration comes largely from things I observe and can translate into jewelry form.



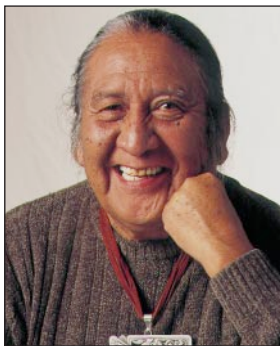
Vernon Haskie
Navajo

Actually I started making things when I was nine years old. I had observed my parents making jewelry, so I challenged myself to make a pendant. My parents were away one afternoon and I just did it. I completed my first pendant on my own.



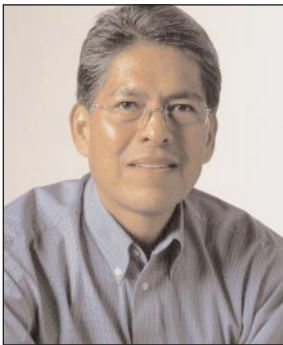
Mike Bird-Romero
San Juan and Taos Pueblos

I call myself a silversmith, not a jeweler, because when I started making jewelry, I learned the old way. In other words, I can make anything that I need to make. I don't depend on somebody else to cut my silver for me, melt my silver, make my castings. I do it all myself.



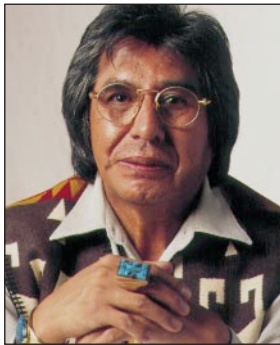
Michael Kabotie
Hopi

In jewelry work, you have to deal with your emotions, with your expectations, with your perfectionism, and with your skills. There's usually a big gap between what you think and what your hands can do.



Richard Chavez
San Felipe Pueblos

I am influenced by whatever I see...buildings, paintings, sculpture. But I don't use symbolism that contradicts where I come from, that's not allowed in my culture. I put my whole self into the work from start to finish. When someone purchases a work of mine I feel honored that it's appreciated.



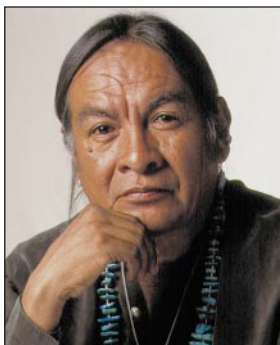
James Little
Navajo

I get ideas from lots of places, like when I have a trip, like a scene, or a landscape, or something from my mom or my dad... it all makes a history.



Cippy Crazy Horse
Cochiti Pueblos

One of my favorite designs is the radial tire design. I helped these people with a flat tire one day, and when I saw the nice intricate patterns of the tire, I thought, "Wow, I bet that would look good in a bracelet." So, for me, the patterns are all out there. It's just a matter of trying to capture them and put them into one of my silver pieces.



Phil Loretto
Jemez and Cochiti Pueblos

I guess I've recorded history in my jewelry, because I draw on what goes on in Pueblo life or in Navajo life—the traditional dances and people working in their fields.

Native North American Jewelry Arts of the Northwest and Southwest

totems to turquoise



Anthony Lovato
Santo Domingo

I'm a third-generation jeweler. My father did silver work, but nobody ever told me, 'Come here and learn this.' I just started watching; that's how I picked up jewelry. When I was in high school I took jewelry classes, and then I majored in metals in college, just to go further.



Veronica Poblano
Zuni

Sometimes you've got to leave an area to find yourself, to find out what you really want to be in life. I'm proud of myself for doing that, and to come home and show my people what I have done with my creativity.



Jesse Monongya
Navajo and Hopi

When you're on the reservation, you feel like you can touch the stars because they're so close and they're so bright. I always thought it was a beautiful way to live. That's all in my work.



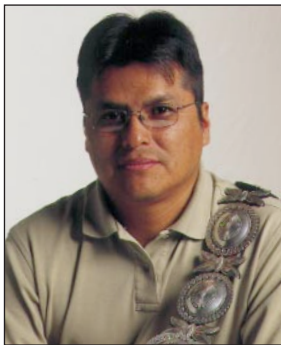
Angie Reano Owen
Santo Domingo

I love making jewelry. Once you decide what you want to do, then you want to see it finished. You have to have the passion and love for it otherwise things just don't come together. You have to put your whole heart into it.



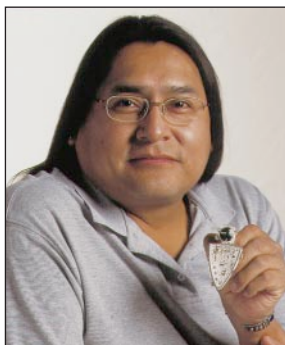
Verma Nequatawa
Hopi

It's the hardest thing to do, to make a piece simple or subtle. I try to make a piece clean and so beautiful that it hurts. The most important thing that I learned was about the stones themselves, how to work the stone and study the stone. Actually, I don't create the jewelry. It's like the beauty of the stones directs me how to use them.



Perry Shorty
Navajo

It's like I have a file in my mind of designs and patterns from the old phases. The creative part is taking one design that was used in this period, and then another one, and put them together to make a piece that will work. The Navajo has a saying, "walk in beauty, walk in harmony." If I've made something that's nice and it flows and it pleases someone's eye, then I've done a good job.



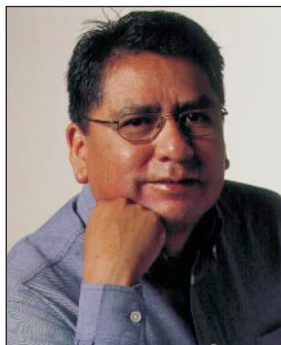
Myron Panteah
Zuni and Navajo

I get ideas from everywhere—light fixtures, pottery, driving through the mountains in Vermont, seeing things that are different than what you see at home. That's what my work shows, connections to new things.



Lee A. Yazzie
Dineh (Navajo)

I feel blessed that I have a lot of ideas, a lot of designs that I haven't even made yet. And they are still coming. It's just like the energy and the light that comes from the sun. If we can harness it, it will be for our benefit.



Raymond Yazzie
Navajo

Cutting stones is an art, to get that smooth polish and to find the best area in the stone to show it off. I spend a lot of time thinking how to give life to a piece of turquoise or coral.