

Bonnie Jo Hunt (Wicahpi Win) "Star Woman" Lakota

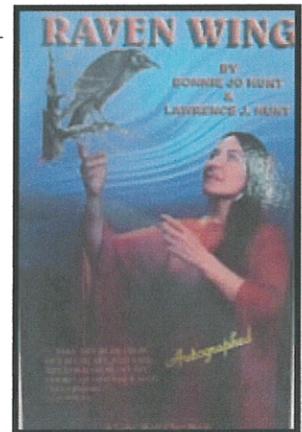


Bonnie Jo Hunt is Lakota (Standing Rock Sioux) and the great-great-granddaughter of both Chief Francis Mad Bear, prominent Teton Lakota Leader, and Major James McLaughlin, Indian Agent and Chief Inspector for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Bonnie Jo has spent much of her life working

among Indian People. She is founder and president of Artists of Indian America, Inc. whose goal is to stimulate cultural and social improvement among American Indian people, especially the youth.



Bonnie Jo is famous for her beautiful voice and music which she has on her CD's and for the books she and her husband, Lawrence J. Hunt have written together.



Bien Mur Indian Market Center
100 Bien Mur Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
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Bruce Joe Navajo



Bruce Joe is a member of the Navajo Tribe. He is a member of the Kintichii 'nii (Red House People) and born for Ta 'baa ha' (The Water's Edge People).

His family has been involved in jewelry making for three generations and Bruce, himself, has been involved since 1990.

Bruce describes his work as pictorial inlay. He starts by drawing, sawing out, soldering, inlaying and buffing by using sterling silver and various types of sea shells and precious stones. He also produces channel inlay, overlay, traditional jewelry, and stringing.

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

When he is not engaged in jewelry making, he spends his time as an arc welder, auto mechanic, and home repairer. In his free time he attends to his corn field and plays his guitar.

Bruce says about his work, "I take pride in every jewelry I produce and when I see someone wearing my jewelry I'm very honored."



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Vernon Jojola Isleta



Vernon Jojola is an award-winning silversmith who does unique, innovative and eye-catching silver, gold and stone work. With the exception of serving three years in the U.S. Army, he has lived at Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico. Vernon and his wife, Bert, have a daughter, Karen.

Vernon began his artistic endeavors doing pottery; but, as he expresses it, "Something inside pulled me to jewelry and Bert encouraged me to go ahead." In addition to encouraging Vernon, Bert helps him with some of the paper design and stone selection for his unique creations.

Vernon is completely self-taught. He sees his ability as a blessing, saying, "It's on loan to me, it's not mine. I feel my gift was presented to me by a higher power, by someone stronger than me.

Therefore, I have to use it the right way and not take advantage of it. If I treat it wrong, it can be taken away from me. I treat it with respect." For Vernon, this philosophy results in his creating either a single or small multiples of each piece because he believes the people who purchase his work deserve the uniqueness of that piece. Even when creating something simple, he will not make more than 3 or 4 like items. As Vernon says "It's art work."



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Vernon's signature is on his jewelry, and his hallmark is a mountain with a sunrise, which comes from his traditional Indian name, Thor-shun (sunrise or "the sun is coming"). He uses the overlay technique, but with a special approach, enjoying the challenge of combining two metals to form a design. His designs are all a positive picture instead of a negative; in other words, what you see is a picture in silver. He is intrigued by the Mimbres style and likes to work with these designs because "they are simple, clean and pretty; they stand out."

With his artistic talent, he combines the traditional and the contemporary to create a uniquely different piece. Vernon creates extremely striking handmade, woven chains of fine silver, 99.9% pure silver, much purer than sterling silver. He has won awards at Santa Fe Indian Market, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and many other awards at other juried competitions. He has attended invitational art shows and Indian Fairs in numerous places. Examples of his work are included in the permanent collections of the University of San Diego David May Collection and the San Diego Museum of Man.



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