

Artist Statement

Deborah A. Jojola – Isleta/Jemez Pueblo

In my work, I explore the unique position held by Pueblo women artists as essential keepers of tradition and cultural identity, while taking a leading role in sharing this living culture with the world outside the Pueblo. Utilizing centuries-old art forms, symbols of the past, creating symbolic imagery for the future. It carries a dialogue of history /resilience, and understanding of the environmental relationship that embraces all life.

I realize, that my propose in life is within my artwork. My fascination with traditional Pueblo frescos - is a dying art form. Used by indigenous people for many centuries was an important and meaningful form of storytelling. The fresco process is a reminder of the lost art produced for a purposeful time and reason. When art was not a word used, but a process utilizes for a meaningful rhythm of Life. This is importance, that we reach back to learn from our ancestors of the past, for Life in the present and for our future. Our knowledge is crucial, our struggles are real and still exist today. We reach back for guidance with prayers and offerings with the breath of Life, in hopes Our children will carry on, practice and understand for a better future.

My research and curiosity are exciting discoveries. It's my energy! I explore age-old techniques and utilize these resources that allows me to continue in the same pathways of my ancestral people. I gain a better understand of this purposeful practice has it enhances my ability to share, to preserve and to transform my frescos technique into a contemporary visual language.

There are many opportunities to work with the land, and its resources it gives me a chance to work with an indigenous collaboration that paradigm with my use of natural pigments and soil, earthen colors and elements that relate stories of deep-rooted cultures. We share the inquisitiveness, identity, and survival instinct as we approach our art, this becomes our cultural backbone.

This dialogue is shared through a mindful creative present. To be able to produce my art brings great excitement to every sensory vide in my body.