

Joseph Begay: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Navajo

Sculpture, Carving



Joseph Begay is a full blooded Native America Indian born into the Navajo Nation in 1964. He learned the art of carving on stones from his friend, Jeff Lewis. Joseph began carving on stone at the age of 22. The lucrative aspect of the business played a key role in him becoming a fine artisan. It is his primary source of income to support his family.

Joseph works with natural materials found throughout the southwest. The materials that he primarily carves from are: alabaster, serpentine, Picasso marble, jet, dolomite, amber, argyite, and silonite. His distinctive animals include life-like representations of bears, turtles, eagles, coyotes, buffalos and several others. His carvings are enhanced by either a solid or multi-color inlaid heartline or a prayer bundle containing arrows, feathers, and heshi that he places on the backs of his carvings. Joseph is proud and honored to be artistically gifted with this special talent. He is also extremely enthusiastic about sharing his artistic abilities and his cultural background. He signs his carvings J.B.

