

Laurence Crank: Kayenta, Arizona

Navajo

Mixed Media

Laurence Crank is a Dine artist who was born in Monument Valley, UT in 1966. He was always intrigued by artwork left by his ancestors in the Valley. Because of their influence he took Pottery classes during his high school years, learning the art of the wheel thrown pottery. Laurence has continued to learn and improve his craft for over 20 years.

Each one of his pieces is hand etched and hand painted, so that no two are exactly alike. This method enables each piece to have its own story. On almost all of his pots, Laurence draws the morning sun, which gives him inspiration almost every day. The symmetry and intricacy of the etched designs provides an immediate sense of balance and spiritual connection with nature.

Laurence incorporates traditional and contemporary designs into his pottery, taking it further by inserting lifelike pictures of the North America wildlife including cougar, deer, elk, bears, Rocky Mountains rams and buffalos. He also likes to paint the American eagle and the hummingbirds on his pottery.

His life work is a spiritual journey stating that “when I take the etching tools and paint brush in my hand, I feel the presence of my ancestors guiding my hand. Thus, each piece I create is unique. That is my motivation to create something, more beautiful each time. It is a road less traveled”.

Laurence is an accomplished artist receiving several awards in his lifetime, including 1st place during the 15th Annual West Valley Invitational Native American Art Festival (Litchfield, AZ), and “Best New Artist” award at the Indian Summer Festival (Milwaukee, WI). This is Laurence’s first year at the Tesoro Foundation’s Indian Market & Powwow.

