



**BJ Fragua**

Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico



**Traditional and Contemporary Pottery**

BJ (Betty Jean) Fragua was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1962. She was raised in San Francisco, California until 1973. She did not know much about her background until her family moved back to Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico. BJ comes from a long line of artists. In her immediate family, BJ's mother, Juanita Fragua is a well known potter, her brother Cliff Fragua is a sculptor, who was recently been commissioned to sculpt a statue of a Native American warrior named Pope' that will be placed in the National Statutory Museum in Washington D.C. She has two other brothers who also do sculpting, Sam and Donald Fragua. Her sister Glendora Fragua is also a potter. BJ has a daughter Roxanne, son Jonathan and two wonderful grandchildren DeAndre and Gabriella. BJ was taught her craft by her mother, who was taught by her mother Rita Casiquito, who was taught by her mother, Benina Madelena, and so on.

BJ has been described as an exceptionally talented artist following the best traditions of the finest pottery artists in Pueblo pottery as well as the very best of Jemez traditional and contemporary pottery making. She has developed her own unique and beautifully elegant design style. BJ is known for her exceptionally tight fitting lids and her exquisitely polished pieces. Her hand painting is precise in the creation of her traditionally based imagery. BJ accentuates her painted designs within the incised carved section that flow around the mid sections of her pottery.

BJ and her work has been shown at many galleries across the US which include San Juan Capistrano, CA, Michael & Sons, Reno, NV, American West, Chicago, IL, Tribal Expressions, Arlington Heights, IL, Southwest Trading Co., St. Charles, IL, Native American Co., Denver, CO, Many Hands Gallery, Sedona, AZ, Traditional Pueblo Arts, Scottsdale, AZ, Kleywood Southwest, San Antonio, TX, Armadillo Trading Co., Palms Trading Co., The Great Southwest Pottery Co. and Agape Southwest all located in Albuquerque, NM and recently at the Indian Craft Shop located at the Department of Interior in Washington D.C. She has also received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and honorable mention awards throughout many of her showings which include Santa Fe Indian Market, Pueblo Grande Museum and the Heard Museum.