



My name is Dusty Naranjo. I was born on July 9, 1968 in Taos, New Mexico. I am from Santa Clara and Taos Pueblo. My parents are Tito and Bernice Suazo-Naranjo. I have two brothers; Forest and Jengsedo. I now reside in Santa Clara Pueblo. This is a central location for both my pottery and my education. I graduated from New Mexico Highlands University with a B.A. in Psychology. I am now currently pursuing a Masters degree in Art Therapy and will return to school to obtain another Masters degree in Clinical Psychology. Since my first obligation was college, I did not become a serious potter until three years ago when I discovered that pottery was a wonderful creative process.

Although I was always exposed to the process of pottery, it wasn't more than seven years ago that I made my first pot. I come from a long line of accomplished potters and sculptors. My paternal grandmother, Rose Naranjo, makes Micaceous pottery. My extended family includes several aunts; Jody Folwell, Nora Naranjo-Morse and Dollie Naranjo-Neikrug, who are also potters. My uncle, Michael Naranjo is a world renowned sculpture. My father also took up sculpting after retiring as a Social Work Professor. My mother, a Special Education teacher, makes Santa Clara and Micaceous pottery. She is my main influence. I admired her creativity and pursuit of perfection of form and style. My brother also had an influence on me as a potter. His exquisite designs and unusual pottery shapes have made me strive for my own individual process.

My pottery is best described as contemporary Santa Clara, but I make it in the traditional manner; getting my own clay, polishing with a stone and doing traditional firing. What I like about pottery is the individuality that comes into the designs. I incorporate abstract lines and shapes with images found in the Southwest. Every pot is distinct. I am constantly trying out new design ideas. This is where the process varies between my family. I have no formal schooling as an artist and did not realize until I made pottery what creativity I had. My enjoyment of the process is not only in designing but in forming the shapes as well. I like unusual shapes that lend themselves to the designs. I often get inspiration for designs by looking at the shape of the pot.

I currently have pottery in several galleries around the Southwest; in California, Arizona and New Mexico. In Santa Fe, I show at Robert Nichols, Andrea Fisher Fine Pottery, and Packards on the Plaza. Shows I attend include the Heard Museum show, Indian Market, Eight Northern Pueblos show, Pueblo Grande, and the Red Earth show in Oklahoma City.

I hope to continue making pottery as long as possible while I also pursue my education.