



Robert Whitecrow Orduño

Robert Whitecrow Orduño Cover Artwork: *Rainbow Warriors III*

As a contemporary artist, Robert Whitecrow Orduño draws from his rich Gabrieleño/Tongva and Spanish heritage to create art that is both impressionistic and expressionistic with abstract qualities.

Orduño grew up on a small farm near San Fernando, CA. After attending the Los Angeles School of Design, he spent 20 years as a graphic design artist before leaving the field to devote himself to painting. While living in Great Falls, MT, he quickly achieved recognition among art circles in the Northwest and received numerous awards. He moved his studio to Santa Fe in the late 1980s, where the spiritual side of his Native American nature emerged to catapult him on a journey to new places of the heart, soul and mind.

As a contemporary artist, Orduño's canvases come alive with color and energy from his total being. "I behold the expression of my art as a strong spiritual entity, echoing the philosophy that all of nature, including man, is unified with one essential heartbeat. Everything in nature is spiritual and interconnected, including the most basic, the most utilitarian things. They become the central theme in my thinking, bringing me to the point where art is a means of communicating

and understanding the universal spirituality which weaves its way into the essence of all cultures."

In the true spirit of creativity, Orduño's paintings continue to represent a progressive process of self-discovery. No image exists in an Orduño painting that has not first taken the artist to deep internal questioning. "When the ancient one chants to me," Orduño reflects, "I listen. My body becomes a vehicle for the dance and I abandon myself to the process, the journey of painting. I cross the abyss and when the old ones cease to speak, the dance comes full circle."

Orduño is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*. His work is now emerging as an important contender in the international contemporary art market and is rapidly gaining prominence for major private, museum and specialized collections. Orduño had a featured role in two episodes of Steven Spielberg's critically acclaimed mini-series, *Into the West*. ♣

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