

Elaine Smith

Grace Elaine works out of her studio in the Rio Communities area of Belen, NM. She grew up in the Tri-cultural area of New Mexico, where Southwest art abounds. From early childhood she was introduced to the Arts of the Native American Indians, Spanish and Anglos of Central and Northern NM.



Her mother, born and raised in Raton, NM, loved the Arts and tastes (good food) of the Indian and Spanish cultures. She traveled and purchased from tribes north and west of Albuquerque for years with Elaine in tow. This has especially been an influence for Elaine's creativity and love of the arts and eats of this grand state.

Elaine was also born in Raton, her family moved to Albuquerque in the early years of her life. She learned a multiplicity of handicrafts in her early years and has continued to work with papers and cloth for her entire life.

Elaine met Bob Hinkle, a metal craftsman and started working with him. Bob has now retired and is allowing Elaine to continue with some of the same art forms and techniques from his legacy.



METHODOLOGY:

- 1) Each item is hand-drawn on a piece of metal.
- 2) It is cut out with metal shears to achieve its individual shape.
- 3) Utilizing various tools that allow a variety of styles & effects, the picture or design is hand-punched into the shape.
- 4) The last step involves assembly, soldering & finally a polishing to achieve its luster.

