



Pablita ABEYTA SCULPTOR



"Pablita was an amazing woman and artist. Her work flowed from an authentic gift and from her belief in women as healers and visionaries. She continues to be an inspiration to me." -Shanan Campbell Wells, owner, Sorrel Sky Gallery

A proud example of her culture, sculpture artist Pablita Abeyta (1953-2017) created memorable and sensuous clay figurines that capture the timeless spirit of Navajo life. Traditional in her use of hand-coiled clay, Pablita also incorporated free-form clay slabs in creating pheasant feather motifs. A self-taught artist, Pablita received awards nationally for many of her perceptive pieces, some of which appear in the permanent collection of the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museums of American History in Washington, D.C. Ta-Nez-Bah is Pablita's Navajo name, which translates to "one who completes a circle." Pablita's sculptures are typically smooth, round and sensuous. A complete circle often comes to mind, in viewing her depiction of feathered masks-sculptures that emulate super-human deities-but also in the life-circle suggested between interconnected figurines. Her life and work were truly reflective of her name, as she tirelessly promoted the importance of family, community, heritage, and the strength of women.

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