



**The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture Names  
Renowned Santa Clara Potter Jody Naranjo  
The 2017 MIAC Living Treasure And Native Treasures Featured Artist**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – December 7, 2016 (Santa Fe, NM): Continuing the traditions and practices of her grandmothers, and her grandmothers' grandmothers, Jody Naranjo makes pottery and adds her own unique and whimsical creative touch in the form of her animals figures, caricatures, colors, and designs. Naranjo, 48, an eighth-generation Pueblo potter from Santa Clara pueblo, has been named the 2017 Museum of Indian Arts & Culture (MIAC) Living Treasure and Native Treasures Featured Artist.

Naranjo will be honored for her far-reaching artistic contributions, and her dedication to the Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival, which is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and is held annually over Memorial Day Weekend. This year's festival takes place beginning on Friday, May 26, 2017 with the Pre-Show Celebration & Benefit, and continues on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, 2017, all in the Santa Fe Community & Convention Center.

Jody Naranjo, represented in Santa Fe by Blue Rain Gallery, is part of the well-known Naranjo family of Santa Fe Clara Pueblo, a dynastic family of artists, and sort of royalty among clay artists. The family is descended from the late Rose Naranjo known by many as the Naranjo family matriarch for her many contributions to Native American art before her death in 2004 at the age of 89. Rose had 10 children, all became educators or potters, or both, one of whom was Dolly Naranjo-Neikrug, Jody Naranjo's mother.

"I remember watching my grandmother making huge vessels, and I remember using clay from the time I was 3 or 4 years old," Naranjo said. "And I would make little zoos and little houses—I always knew that I would be a potter. I never thought of doing anything else, or wanted to do anything else."

First learning the craft of pottery from her mother and other female relatives, Naranjo was selling her artwork at age fifteen at the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors and she subsequently attended the Institute of American Indian Arts. She uses traditional methods to make her pottery, including digging the clay from pueblo lands, processing the raw clay, coiling and pit firing.

Images of women, which she calls "pueblo girls" and animals, are common themes in her artworks, something that she considers being playful and experimental. She recently said that always having one of her children by her side while working has inspired her stylized designs. She would say to them, "look at this, this is you going to the zoo, or this is the dog." Naranjo's work is also notable for its different color clays and the addition of acrylic colors.



Jodi Naranjo. Photo by Kitty Leaken



Clown Pot. Photo by Kitty Leaken

“The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture is a key institution for us, it illustrates authentic pueblo culture & life and I feel it really represents us,” Naranjo said. “I’m honored to be the Living Treasure and Featured Artist for Native Treasures, which is an important benefit event for MIAC,” she said.

MIAC will present a special exhibition of Jody Naranjo’s work, “Jody Naranjo: Revealing Joy,” which will include art that is both from its collections as well as pieces on loan for this occasion. It opens to the public on Sunday, April 2, 2017.

In addition, for the first time, the work of all previous MIAC Living Treasures will be featured in a special exhibition at the Governor’s Gallery in the New Mexico State Capitol opening on May 5, 2017 and on display through September 2017. The previous Living Treasures are: Robert Tenorio (2006), Mike Bird-Romero (2007), Connie Tsosie Gaussoin (2008), Upton Ethelbah, Jr. (2009), Lonnie Vigil (2010), Roxanne Swentzell (2011), Tony Abeyta (2012), Tammy Garcia (2013), Joe & Althea Cajero (2014) Keri Atuambi & Teri Greeves (2015) and Dan Namingha (2016), and Jody Naranjo (2017).

**What:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival, a key fundraiser that supports the exhibitions and education programs at MIAC

**Where:** Santa Fe Community & Convention Center

**When:** May 26 through May 28, 2017

**For More information:** [www.nativetreasures.com](http://www.nativetreasures.com)

### About

Native Treasures has become one of the important Indian art shows in the country since its inception in 2005. More than 200 museum-quality artists from over 40 tribes and pueblos will showcase and sell their pottery, jewelry, glass, painting, sculpture, carvings, textiles and other art. Artists are invited to participate, and show organizers work to bring in new talent each year. Selected demonstrations by artists, an eclectic mix of music, and delicious food add to the festive atmosphere. Proceeds from Native Treasures provide the primary funding for annual changing exhibits at MIAC. Artists generously donate a portion of their sales to MIAC.

### Pre-Show Celebration & Benefit

The honoring ceremony for Jody Naranjo will take place at the Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival Pre-Show Celebration on Friday, May 26, from 5:30-7:30 pm, at the Convention Center. Each year, the award for the Living Treasure artist is an original piece of art made and presented by the previous year’s Living Treasure honoree. Last year’s award recipient was Dan Namingha. Also that evening is a special sale of donated art from well-known artists and art created around the theme “Shared Stories.” Hors d’oeuvres, wine and champagne will be served. Tickets for the Friday party are \$125 and are also available as part of Native Treasures sponsorships.

[www.nativetreasures.org](http://www.nativetreasures.org)

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