



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NATIVE TREASURES ANNOUNCES 2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Santa Fe, N.M. — Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival is pleased to announce accomplished artists Joe and Althea Cajero as the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture (MIAC) Living Treasures for 2014. This is the first time in the 10-year history of the show that the award has been given jointly to two artists. The MIAC Living Treasure award is given in recognition of artistic excellence and community service.



Renowned bronze and clay sculptor Joe Cajero is from Jemez Pueblo, and jeweler Althea Cajero is from Kewa (formerly Santo Domingo) and Acoma Pueblos. It is rare that a married couple share studio space, and even rarer that they together receive such a distinguished award. The couple married eight years ago, and reside in Placitas, N.M.



“The feeling is overwhelming gratitude that both of us are being recognized with the MIAC Living Treasure award at the same time,” says Joe Cajero. “We feel very humbled.”

“To be in a relationship, share studio space, and watch each other grow is magical,” Joe continued. “You can see influences in each other’s work that guide your own creativity, from the beginning and through the whole process. I watch Althea’s pieces unfold, and see how we enhance and advance each other’s work through sharing. We are very open about our process of creativity.”

Joe Cajero has been creating clay originals in traditional Jemez clay and limited-edition bronze sculptures, including a few monumental commissions, for decades. His works are highly sought after by collectors. Althea Cajero began her art career more recently. In her jewelry designs, she integrates cuttlefish-bone castings with beautiful turquoise, jasper, agate, coral, natural shells, pearls, gold and silver.



Although the Cajeros daily give each other inspiration and feedback, they had never jointly designed anything before creating the Dragonfly bracelet specifically for Native Treasures. The piece is a silver, cuttlefish-cast cuff bracelet fashioned by Althea with a sculpted silver dragonfly by Joe.

Both Joe and Althea come from artistic families. Joe was raised by a painter father and potter mother revered in the Native art community. He attended the Institute for American Indian Arts, and was awarded a top prize at Santa Fe Indian Market when he was only 16. Althea's parents were both well-known and respected Native jewelers.

“We are delighted to be recognizing both Joe and Althea with the MIAC Living Treasure award this year,” says Karen Freeman, Co-Chairman of Native Treasures. “Their work is outstanding, and they have given generously of their time and talent to the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture.”

Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival benefits the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture in Santa Fe, and has become one of the most important Indian art shows in the U.S. More than 200 museum-quality artists from over 40 tribes and Pueblos will showcase and sell their pottery, jewelry, glass, paintings, sculpture, carvings, textiles, and other art on Saturday and Sunday, May 24–25, 2014, at the Santa Fe Convention Center. The Cajeros will be honored at the Preview Party at 5:30–7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 23, also at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center.

For this 10th anniversary of the Living Treasure Award, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture will honor every artist who has won the award. These artists are some of the biggest names in the Native American art world, and include: Robert Tenorio, Mike Bird-Romero, Connie Tsosie Gaussoin, Upton Ethelbah, Jr., Lonnie Vigil, Roxanne Swentzell, Tony Abeyta, Tammy Garcia, and the 2014 recipients, Joe and Althea Cajero.

For more information, visit [www.nativetreasures.org](http://www.nativetreasures.org)



### Native Treasures 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overview

- Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-25, 2014
- Two day Native American arts festival and sale, featuring over 200 invited museum-quality artists taking place at the Santa Fe Convention Center
- Benefits the exhibit fund for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture (MIAC) in Santa Fe

### 10<sup>th</sup> Year Milestones

Over the last nine years, Native Treasures has:

- Raised \$700,000 for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture's exhibits
- Become the primary funding source for the museum's exhibits
- Funded over 20 exhibits at the museum
- Generated \$3 million in art sales for Native American artists
- Honored some of the biggest names in the Native art world as our MIAC Living Treasures:
  - 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)
- Welcomed 30,000 attendees to Native Treasures for one-on-one interaction with the artists
- Benefited from the help of 600 volunteers
- Been supported by hundreds of individual and business sponsors
- Been named one of "Five Great Things To Do" by Bienvenidos Magazine
- Outgrown its tent on Museum Hill in 2009 and moved to the Santa Fe Convention Center
- Become the kickoff event of the summer art season in Santa Fe
- Launched a second event—the Native Treasures Collectors' Sale—to help collectors sell their Native American art and also benefit MIAC; held October 11-12, 2014

Learn more! [www.nativetreasures.org](http://www.nativetreasures.org)



***NATIVE TREASURES: INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL***

**WHAT:** *Native Treasures*, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, is an invitational art show and sale featuring the best Native art in the U.S. Proceeds provide exhibit funding for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture.

*Featuring:*

- More than 200 museum-quality artists from over 40 tribes and pueblos
- Best and brightest of the Indian art world
- Santa Fe's only museum-quality Indian art show

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 24 & Sunday, May 25, 2014

**Native American art show and sale**

Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$10; Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Free

(Early Birds Saturday 9-10 a.m., \$20)

Festival tickets available at entrance

**Friday, May 23, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

\*Benefit Preview Party, offering unique “Journey”-inspired pieces created by artists just for this evening

\*2014 MIAC Living Treasures, Joe & Althea Cajero, will be honored with a gift from the 2013 MIAC Living Treasure, Tammy Garcia

\*All of the past Living Treasure honorees will also be recognized

\*Attendees will meet and mingle with the *Native Treasures* artists

\*Hors d'oeuvres and wine/champagne will be served

\*Live jazz entertainment

\*\$100 (includes an Early Bird ticket for Saturday); tickets also included in *Native Treasures* sponsorships. For tickets or to become a sponsor, go to [www.nativetreasures.org](http://www.nativetreasures.org)

**WHERE:** Santa Fe Community Convention Center, at the corner of Marcy and Grant Streets; Santa Fe, New Mexico

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

**FOR IMAGES, INTERVIEWS, PRESS PASSES & OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Jennifer Marshall, 505-231-1776, [Jennifer@jmarshallplan.com](mailto:Jennifer@jmarshallplan.com)**