

LIZ WOLF

CAPTURING FEELINGS & THOUGHTS IN SCULPTURE

Written by Dr. Lew Deitch

There is a strong element of the creative spirit in and around Santa Fe. This city, dating back to the early years of the 17th century, has been home to artists and artisans for many decades. It is here among the piñon-covered hills, beneath a crystal sky, that artists find inspiration. And Liz Wolf, noted sculptor in stone and bronze, is no exception.

Liz was raised in the Midwest within a nurturing atmosphere, one in which her mother introduced her to a variety of art forms from around the globe. She recalls, "Looking back at my childhood, I know that creative energies have always been with me." Through her formal training at both Northern Illinois University and the Art Institute of Chicago, Liz earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts with an emphasis upon sculpture. She then spent the major portion of her life in the Chicago metropolitan area until 1997 when she moved to Santa Fe.

Liz has always pondered the mystery of the creative process, knowing that she was personally blessed with the gift of being able to turn ancient pieces of rock, driftwood and dried flowers into hand-sculpted and decorated works that will, as she comments, "...bring things that had a life into someone's home." She adds, "I am always aware of my surroundings and I channel life into images through my artwork... If only to capture my feelings and thoughts in a sculpture, that to me is the essence of being an artist. I continue to work with a wide range of materials, including clay, mixed media and bronze." And since moving to Santa Fe,

her beliefs in the vitality of the creative process have strengthened, stimulated by both her physical surroundings and the richness of the Native American culture that is so much apart of the region and her art. The influences of the Southwest are totally integrated into the sculptures of Liz Wolf, be they animal, human or a combination of both. The Native American flavor is undecidedly present. All of her sculptures are considered to be guardians, offering what she hopes will be the essence of the native spirit realm that will bring blessings of protection to their owners. She captures the soul of the tribal cultures through both her development of lifelike details and the use of soft, natural colors. Many of her finished pieces are comprised of sculpted clay, given color by the use of rich slips and glazes that come to life through firing. After the firing process, many pieces are often decorated with other materials to add delicate touches, creating works that are classed as mixed media. Her bronzes are all given rich patinas that once again bring out the subtle details so representative of her clay sculptures. They may vary in size from just a few inches in height to life size works that add elegance to any indoor or outdoor setting.

The beautifully crafted work produced by Liz Wolf has been featured in a long list of individual showings at galleries from the Midwest to the Pacific Coast, with the majority having been held in Santa Fe, Scottsdale and Sedona. Her sculptures are to be found in numerous public and private collections.



Standing Watch



Spring Dance



Dreams in Flight

Liz with art