

James Montoya

New Mexico

The method of retablo-making is a tradition grounded in the depiction of miraculous events. James' mission is to preserve traditions while being open to the mysterious nature of our changing world. Retablos were often an art-form mediated by the need for small, portable iconography that could survive transatlantic travel. During Spanish colonialism, the form acquired elements of iconographic storytelling from indigenous communities and found particular value amongst lay farmers and those on the margins of European colonial influence.



James Montoya is an artist from Santa Fe, New Mexico who began showing his work in art shows at a very young age. While much



of his work follows the traditional methods of the retablo maker, he has incorporated methods and forms drawn from the evolution of lifestyles amongst Southwestern Latinos over the past century. He created two versions of the same iconography, Our Blessed Virgin, to demonstrate some of his artistic evolutions. These pieces were created specifically for the WFAM project.



For James, **#artsaves** the sense of awe and wonder we constantly encounter in the world.