

***Indigenous Evolution* by Tony Jojola and Rosemary Lonewolf**



Artists Introduction

Rosemary Lonewolf (Santa Clara Pueblo) was born in 1954. She is a potter who makes her ceramics from clay she collects from her community of Santa Clara Pueblo. She hand-builds her pottery and figures. She is highly skilled at making her ceramics lifelike, as is seen in *Indigenous Evolution*.

Tony Jojola (Isleta Pueblo) was born in 1958. Jojola is well known for his glass blowing, which is a technique to shape glass. Shaping glass requires melting raw materials at extreme temperatures, which creates a liquid. A tool called a blowpipe is used to blow air into the molten liquid to create the shape of the glass. After the materials cool, they turn into a solid. Jojola's glass work reflects the ceramic bowls from his home of Isleta Pueblo.

About the Art

Indigenous Evolution, also known as the "art fence," is a collaboration between two artists using glass and clay. Made in 2004, *Indigenous Evolution* measures 30 feet in length and is shown in the Heard Museum's permanent exhibition *Home: Native People in the Southwest*. The artwork brings Indigenous knowledge and contemporary materials together. Numerous glass and ceramic poles make up the art fence. Each pole is unique. Jojola's use of color in his glass poles comes from his memories and colors he has seen in nature, such as reflections of water, reflections of light and rocks. You can see various animals and desert plants depicted in the glass and clay sculptures. Some of the clay sculptures have textures like lizard scales and cactus ribs, while some of the glass is speckled with multiple colors.

Discussion Questions

What memories of nature stand out to you?

What would your own "art fence" look like?

What colors would you use and why?

What materials would you use?

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