

***Pearlene* by Nora Naranjo Morse**



Artist Introduction

Nora Naranjo Morse (Tewa) was born in 1953 and is from Santa Clara Pueblo in northern New Mexico. Naranjo Morse is well known for her clay and sculptural work depicting animals, characters, and other three-dimensional forms. Her mother, Rose Naranjo (Tewa), was an established potter. Naranjo Morse also expresses herself through poetry.

About the Art

Pearlene was created in 1987 from natural clay harvested from the ground and painted in several earth tones. Naranjo Morse created *Pearlene* by what is known as the coil building technique. Throughout the sculpture, you can see impressions from the artist's hands where she blended the clay together.

Pearlene was inspired by the artist's older cousins, whom she admired when she was an awkward teenager. Naranjo Morse created *Pearlene* as her alter ego, using this character to express herself in ways she wouldn't do or say out loud. Several of Naranjo Morse's sculptures are accompanied by stories and poetry, including *Pearlene*.

Discussion Questions

If you were to create a sculpture of a character that represented characteristics of yourself that are strong, interesting, empowering, or unique, what would it look like?

What features might you sculpt to demonstrate your experiences?

What props would your character hold?

What clothing or accessories would your character wear?

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