

# Andrea Fisher

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Fine Pottery

**Laura Gachupin**

Jemez



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Laura Gachupin was born into Jemez Pueblo in November, 1954. As she was growing up her grandmother, Persingula Gachupin, taught her how to prepare the clay. Then her mother, Marie Gachupin Romero, taught her how to make pottery. Laura also took some pottery classes from Ralph Partington at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. In 1974 she dedicated herself to being a full-time traditional Jemez potter. She tells us it was her sister, Maxine Toya, who inspired her to make the figures she is now most known for.

Over the last 40 years Laura has participated in shows and exhibits from coast to coast, but she does try to get to the Heard Museum Guild Indian Art Fair and the SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market every year. She's earned a lot of awards for her work, including two Best of Division ribbons at the prestigious Santa Fe Indian Market.

Laura tells us her favorite shapes to make are owls, turtle bowls, melons and other figural pots. She says her ideas just come to her but she also gets inspiration from other artists. There are many designs she still wants to make, especially since she's gotten really interested in birds and bird books.

In Laura's words: "I am so grateful for my life and family and my gift of talent to be a potter. Thankful to have my mom and grandma. I also like to dance with my 22-month-old grandson, Luciano."

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