

Andrea Fisher

Fine Pottery

Louise Goodman

Navajo



Louise Goodman was born into the Deer Spring Clan on the Navajo Nation in 1937. Her sister-in-law, Lorena Bartlett, taught her how to make pottery. Early in her career as a potter she made standard bowls and jars in a wide variety of shapes and sizes but in the 1970's, she moved more into producing animal figures: chickens, dogs, rams, squirrels, lions, bears, elephants and more. In the 1980's Louise began making large, pot-bellied bears with stubby legs and small heads, sitting on their haunches. Those are much sought after by collectors.

Louise worked in a closet-sized studio in her home in Cow Springs, Arizona for many years. Her studio was especially crowded in those years when her children were working with her.

Her pottery was coiled and shaped by hand using clay she mined on the Navajo Nation. She ground-fired with wood and completed her pots with a veneer of melted piñon pine pitch. Her "rope pots" were a true innovation: constructed of coils smoothed only on the inside, left rough on the exterior and accented with random fire clouds. They can be found in many museums including the Heard Museum in Phoenix, the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, and the Navajo Tribal Museum in Window Rock.

She was featured in the book *Navajo Folk Art*, by Chuck and Jan Rosenak, 1994. Louise signed her work: "LRG". She died on April 4, 2015.

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