


**A celebration of Indigenous art | The iconic landscape of the Valles Caldera**

# **Bienvenidos**

**2022 SUMMER VISITORS GUIDE FOR SANTA FE & NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**

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**SANTA FE  NEW MEXICAN**



# ‘Grounded in clay’, FROM NEW MEXICO TO NEW YORK



Unknown, Acoma Pueblo  
Acoma Polychrome Olla, c. 1880



Unknown, Cochiti Pueblo  
Cochiti Polychrome Storage Jar, c. 1870



Unknown, Zuni Pueblo Water Jar  
K'yabokya de'ele c. 1720

When Tony Chavarria sees a polished black jar used by his grandmother, he sees more than a clay vessel holding water. “This jar reminds me of my grandma and all the grandmas who left testaments of their lives and generous spirits,” writes Chavarria (Ohkay Owingeh/Santa Clara), curator of ethnology at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. “Clay mother smiled upon them and encourages us to follow their example. . . . I see my grandma in the beauty from the earth.”

Chavarria is one of 60 individuals from 21 tribal communities bringing their unique personal perspectives to honor earth’s beauty as it’s revealed by Pueblo pottery. Community curators have selected 100 pots to be shown, and written about, for the exhibit *Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery*, opening at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. It’s the first-ever traveling exhibit of Santa Fe’s Indian Arts Research Center (IARC), a 100-year-old division of the School for Advanced Research (SAR). The exhibit heads to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 2023.

The show enables the public to experience historic and contemporary works in clay “through the eyes of Native peoples,” says Michael F. Brown, president of SAR, which

celebrates its 115th anniversary this year. It’s an unusual exhibition curated by those whose culture it explores, “who challenge the concept of historic pottery as relegated to the past,” says Elysia Poon, IARC director. Many of the exhibit’s works were created in the 20th century.

“The curators’ firsthand knowledge of pots and potters, family rituals, traditional materials and daily use grounds viewers in a powerful sense of people and place,” Poon added. “At the same time, a thread of ancestral memory connects individual pots to the pride, pain and living legacy of Pueblo peoples.”

The exhibit also draws from collections of New York’s Vilcek Foundation, consisting primarily of pottery from the 19th and 20th centuries, including works by Acoma, Cochiti, Hopi, Kewa, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni potters.

A division of SAR that offers public and scholarly programs, IARC houses more than 12,000 pieces of Native American art. In recent years SAR has expanded its public programming to include noncredit classes beyond anthropology and archaeology, with a mission “to encompass social issues of public concern.”

The MIAC exhibit runs from July 30, 2022, to May 23, 2023.

— PATTI LASALLE-HOPKINS