

*"Painting is my opportunity to communicate with you what I love most, the beautiful and living Earth around me. I am a camera, grabbing a moment in time and holding onto it. The rest of the world around me disappears as I paint, time stops and freezes, as I try to speak truly about the image in my heart, so it may walk in beauty."*

Martha Colhoun was born in Michigan in November but grew up in Northern Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. From her classroom in Kayenta she looked out onto Monument Valley, whose serene and severe beauty made a profound impression on a young child. The carved landscapes and pastel deserts of the Southwest, the crystalline beauty of its sky and stars, the trees twisted by the harsh reality of nature's forces were her ideal of beauty. Free time was spent horseback riding in the desert, exploring ruins, witnessing Kachina dances and being part of the rich cultural world of the Navajo and Hopi. Photography was her medium then, and a camera is still never far from her hand.

She attended the University of Arizona on scholarship, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Studio Art/ Metals, minoring in Watercolors and Art History. She began work as a goldsmith a week after graduation, and continued for 26 years.

Her husband's career in the military and later, education, took her many places in the world, and eventually El Paso, TX where she apprenticed to become a Master Goldsmith and opened a successful shop in El Paso, Texas for 18 years, where she created beautiful and whimsical custom fine jewelry pieces.

She left the Southwest twice, but deep homesickness always forced her to return. She began painting in 1980 to keep the memories of the Southwest alive. Watercolors, with their quick expressive beauty were the proper way to capture the quickly shifting colors of the desert.

She now lives in Albuquerque with her husband and cats, happily devoting her creativity to her first artistic love, watercolors.

