**What Makes A Zuni?**

**What makes a Zuni you ask? It is the knowledge of where you come from and the respect you give to those roots. It is how you think, how you go about your years and how you carry the bloodline of a society rich in culture. As an artist I have developed my love for this culture which has been under the looking glass of foreigners and anthropologist alike. Through the pastels, inks and paints of my drawings I intend to pay homage to my heritage through the portrayal of the A:Shiwi. Being that I seek a career in medicine, I decided to explore human anatomy and how all the small parts work together to make one being. The designs used run from a variety of traditional symbols and those that I have personalized. We'll make our way from the surface to the inside where only a microscope can go.**

**We start with birth because it is the beginning of a road that has been personally set out for us like a custom designed highway with unexpected twists and turns. Infants, fresh into the world, are said to hold the knowledge of the Creator. As childhood sets in, the rights of passage determine and mold each individual into their traditional roles. As an adult an individual carries out their duties by carrying themselves with pride and reverence for their heritage. Upon reaching elder status one must stand to represent a younger generation, to teach, to learn from and to guide.**

**As we move from the outside and into the inner depths of our bodies we find we are connected by systems that are constantly at work. Pull open the skin and you will find our bones etched with pride, our veins entwined into sacred symbols, our muscles moving with the changing times and the wombs of our women bearing children to keep our people striving forward. We can go even deeper to witness the markings left by our Creator to identify his children from the rest of the world.**

**As you open other cavities in the body you will find a heart that beats in harmony with nature. You'll see a stomach that appreciates even the smallest things in life, just like the lives of the Zuni. Take a route upwards and you'll also find the brain which holds sacred information which then is delivered to the larynx where the vocal cords expel a chant or a prayer for the gods to hear. Our language is one of a kind and our gods have ears for no other. It is important it is never forgotten. All our parts must work together as a whole.**

**Pick up a looking glass, what do you see? Look even closer and you will find the stories of a people engraved onto each Zuni's genetic coding like petroglyphs on the sides of mountains. Our roots dig deeper than the naked eye can see. The blood flows with the same harmony as the heart, and such harmonies are passed down through both maternal and paternal sides.**

**DNA holds not just genetic information but the glory and secrets of a proud nation.**

**If our souls were physical entities, they'd be highly decorated too, like proud soldiers serving humanity and earning their stripes. The many qualities come together and work as one unit, just like the Zuni village and its people coming together in times of need or in times of celebration. Whether, on my surface or diffused inside my cells, I have all the ingredients to make me who I am. I will always be Zuni.**

**Mallery Quetawki**

\*Kidney added 2016, Eye added 2017\*

2007. 20x30 in. Pastel and Ink. 12 Piece Permanent Display at Zuni IHS Hospital Blackrock, NM.

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