

Amy Córdova - Artist Biography

Amy Córdova has worked as a visual artist, author and educator for over thirty years. Her career began in the early 1980's, when her first exhibition of paintings was shown at the prestigious Elaine Horwich Gallery in Santa Fe, NM.

Shortly after, Córdova's paintings found representation in notable galleries in Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland, OR.

Her work as an illustrator began in the late 1980's when an editor from Simon and Schuster, NY saw her colorful work in the Santa Fe gallery, and asked Córdova to illustrate a children's book, entitled, MY NIGHT FOREST, written by Roy Owen. Since that time, Córdova has illustrated over twenty four books for children and has authored two of her own. She has created cover art for authors, posters for clean rivers, Indigenous Women, cd covers for several creatives, including world- renowned musicians Carlos Nakai and Peter Kater.

Córdova has received a number of awards for her illustration, including both New Mexico and Wisconsin book awards and the grand ALA Pura Belpré Honors twice (2009 and 2011), for exceptional book art depicting characters within a cultural context.

Córdova's art has been featured in travelling exhibitions with DARK LADY DREAMING, a national solo tour, and most recently had works included in a national touring exhibition, Celebrando, of prominent Latino illustrators.

Cordova's art resides in the collections of Disney corporate offices, Stanford Medical Center, various museums, including the Tweed Museum of Art, Mazza Museum of Children's Book Art, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Carthage College, and is included in numerous private collections.

Her career as an educator began in the early 1980's through her devotion to human rights and community arts activism. Córdova volunteered her time and donated her materials, in order to facilitate art projects in communities of need.

Over time, Córdova was awarded several community arts grants which enabled her to create art initiatives with numerous communities of color. She won an NEA Folk Art award for her artistic works and was honored to receive the St. Paul Companies esteemed fellowship for commitment to bringing art to diverse communities.

Córdova has served as an arts educator, where she taught full time and designed place based curriculum for two NM elementary schools. She also served as artist in residence in schools, libraries, and universities, in cities and towns throughout the U.S.. She is honored to have conducted art and creativity workshops for the University of Minnesota and the University of Nebraska Roots Program, where she led creativity workshops for educators. Córdova has presented and spoken throughout the United States for the NEA Big Read Program, and has recently lectured at the Heard Museum, Phoenix.