



### Ruby Chacón

Chacón is co-founder of MICA (Mestizo Institute of Culture & Art). Along with her partner, Terry Hurst, she owns Mestizo Coffee House. Her own words best describe her work and heritage.

“My paintings are a reminder of who I am—the daughter and granddaughter of my mother, her mother and so forth. I am the product of their stories and traditions, their struggles and their achievements. I am curious about my connection to other people and their lives. I honor life. I am grateful to be alive, I am grateful to continue the long path and tradition of my ancestors, to tell the story of humanity in pictures and symbols. I explore the human experience from all spectra. There is only one single lifeline in all my work; it comes from my own voice and experience as a Utahana, a Chicana, and an Artist.

I am Apache, Tewa Pueblo, Spanish, Mestiza, Mexika, Xicana, Chicana, American and Utahana.

I am a Utah native, who never saw our stories or images in the Utah history books, nor the Utah narrative. My mother’s side, Miera, came with Father Escalante to the Salt Lake Valley. My father was born in 1937 in Monticello, Utah, and his grandfather built the second cabin in that area. They were segregated in the schools, punished for speaking Spanish, yet persevered. My aunt was the first woman miner in Helper, Utah, and the first Mexican to serve the public in a restaurant in Monticello. My grandfather Cosme Chacón was trilingual; he spoke Spanish, Navajo and English. My generation is monolingual. We must not lose those elements that make us strong: our history, our traditions, our story and our languages.”