

# Santiago



*"[Roseta's] use of color, light, composition, and texture along with her carefully chosen subject matter and backgrounds, create works that speak to both a place and a time."*

JOEL H. BERNSTEIN

*Art historian, author,  
and collector*



## Roseta Santiago: Imagination on Fire

The work of an artist who finds joy in depicting historic subject matter, integrating contemporary ideas and techniques, creates a body of work that is always fresh, and often surprising. Among Roseta Santiago's signature works are luminous scenes of Pueblo people that highlight elements of their traditions and hint at centuries of evolving culture. Her singular portraits of



*In a Taos Garden*, oil on canvas, 30" h x 24" w, 36" h x 30" w (framed)



*The Ancient*, oil on canvas, 48" h x 48" w



*Defiant Daughter*  
Oil on panel, 20" h x 16" w

beautifully rendered native pots remain a favorite subject: "Even though I've painted many of these," she emphasizes, "I am still completely inspired by what these potters create from little more than clay, minerals, and Yucca-plant brushes."

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Santiago began her career as an exhibit and graphic designer and later created life-size outdoor sporting murals for Bass Pro shops. But it wasn't until she realized her dream of moving to Santa Fe that she was able to focus on the parade of magical, visionary images that danced in her head. She's never looked back and inspiration still flows like a river.

Santiago's paintings impart more than a depiction of a person, or a replication of a scene or arrangement of objects. They impart an experience, a hint of emotional content beyond the subject matter. "My desire is to take people on a journey with my art," she says, "to illustrate the duality of dreams and memory, to instill paintings with suggestions of the permeable boundary between the concrete and the spiritual. I always hope to give viewers something new to think about."

Her recent painting *The Road Not Taken*, exemplifies how she incorporates a sense of mystery into a composition. The lone rider and his horse are sharply



*The Road Not Taken*, oil on canvas panel, 28" h x 28" w

delineated while the landscape is more ephemeral. Santiago makes use of multiple diagonal elements to strengthen the lone figure's impact and, for the viewer, stimulates inevitable questions about the journey.

Roseta Santiago is a prolific painter, constantly inspired, and at her easel every day. Newer works include multiple figures in non-typical Western scenes: a scene in front of a trading post on Guadalupe Street, two native people in a bidding war for a pony while an audience gathers, the appeal of a pueblo garden. Still lifes juxtapose traditional objects that inspire reflections on history. No matter the subject, each painting is rendered in exquisite detail by a sure, seasoned hand. She is an artist on fire.



*Waitin' on Juanito*, oil on canvas, 36" h x 36" w  
(detail on the cover)

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◀  
*Trade Blanket* (detail)  
Oil on canvas  
66" h x 36" w