

# William (“Willie”) Murphy

## Artist Profile



[www.williemurphy.com](http://www.williemurphy.com)

William Murphy, a self-taught artist, was born and lives in Crown Point, New Mexico which is the eastern agency of the Navajo Nation. With the exception of three years of art classes in high school, Willie, as he is better known, developed his talent and style by experimenting freely with oil paint medium and was also inspired by the works of several well-known Navajo artists.

Willie recalls that during the late 1970's when he was 28 years old, his employment was phased out by tribal politics and greed, which created hardships for his family. While seeking other employment and making ends meet by painting, his wife, Oleta began realizing the potential in his work. Oleta's own sense and ability to judge and criticize Willie's work attributed to his success. The appreciation of his realistic landscape paintings from local buyers, family members, and friends was also a major force in his new direction in life.

In 1992, he decided to devote himself solely to art. After approximately 20 years in the field of employment and training with the Navajo Nation, the demand for Willie's work increased so much that he could not divide his time between work, art, and his favorite sport, rodeo. He was also a well-known rodeo cowboy in the Steer Wrestling event throughout the Indian rodeo circuit until 1991 when he suffered a career-ending knee injury.

His artistic direction is recreating the peaceful days of herding sheep as a young boy and various times in the life of the Navajo. Willie became frustrated at times when local buyers would only glimpse and pass his paintings. Oleta encouraged him to be patient and counseled with him of his ambition to be one of the best southwestern artists. Willie's dream is becoming a reality as he has started a collection of awards from art shows throughout the southwest, including the prestigious Santa Fe Indian Market.

When asked about his art career, he states, "It was hard at the beginning; I had to struggle everyday with the thought of whether, at the age of 28, I made a bad decision of changing my career". "I used to enjoy assisting Navajo youth begin their careers". "I am beginning to feel comfortable now with my career move and enjoy the demand for my artwork from around the country and internationally, although I sometimes worry when the gas prices go up! I also enjoy the thought that I was given the opportunity to discover my talent which, otherwise, I may have never touched".

When not painting, Willie divides his time between community land use planning work, watching his granddaughters play high school sports, and enjoying a rodeo to cheer on his sons, nephews, and brothers who also steer wrestle. Some compete in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

# William (“Willie”) Murphy



## Resume

### **FAMILY (NAVAJO)**

Born April 22, 1950, Crown Point, NM of the Sagebrush Clan and born into Tall House Clan  
Son of Tommy Murphy and Grace Tsosie, Weaver  
Grandson of Mary Bah Arviso, Weaver

### **EDUCATION**

Gallup High School — Gallup, New Mexico, 1960  
New Mexico Highlands University — Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1968-69  
Navajo Community College — Many Farms, Arizona, 1969-70

**TRAINING** Self-Taught Oil Realist

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*New Mexico Magazine* Calendar Artist for 2009  
*Enduring Traditions* (1994) by Jerry & Lois Jacka  
*A Measure of Excellence* by Laurance D. Linford  
*Inter-Tribal America* by Inter-Tribal America Association  
*New Mexico Magazine* (August 2005) by New Mexico Tourism Department

# William (“Willie”) Murphy

*Resume Continued...*

## **EXHIBITIONS**

New Mexico State Fair Albuquerque, New Mexico 1993, 1996, 1997

Total Festival Farmington, New Mexico 1993

Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Gallup, New Mexico 1993 to Present

Diamonds and Spurs Art Auction Boulder, Colorado 2000

Santa Fe Indian Market Santa Fe, New Mexico 1998 to Present

Heard Indian Market Phoenix, Arizona 1993

## **AWARDS**

New Mexico State Fair Indian Exhibit:

1993 First

1996 Best of Show

1997 Best of Show

Total Festival: (Poster Artist)

Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial:

1993 First

1994 First

1995 Second

1998 First

Diamonds and Spurs Art Auction:

2000 Best of Show

Santa Fe Indian Market:

1998 First

1999 Third

2001 First

2003 Second

Heard Indian Market:

1999 First

2002 First

2003 First

**Contact Willie Murphy**

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[www.williemurphy.com](http://www.williemurphy.com)

William  
(*Willie*)  
Murphy

Paintings



24" X 48" - O/C



12" X 24" - O/C



24" X 36" - O/C

William  
(*Willie*)  
Murphy

Paintings



20" X 24" - O/C



24" X 48" - O/C



20" X 24" - O/C

William  
(*"Willie"*)  
Murphy

Paintings



20" X 24" - O/C



20" X 24" - O/C



34" X 20" - O/C



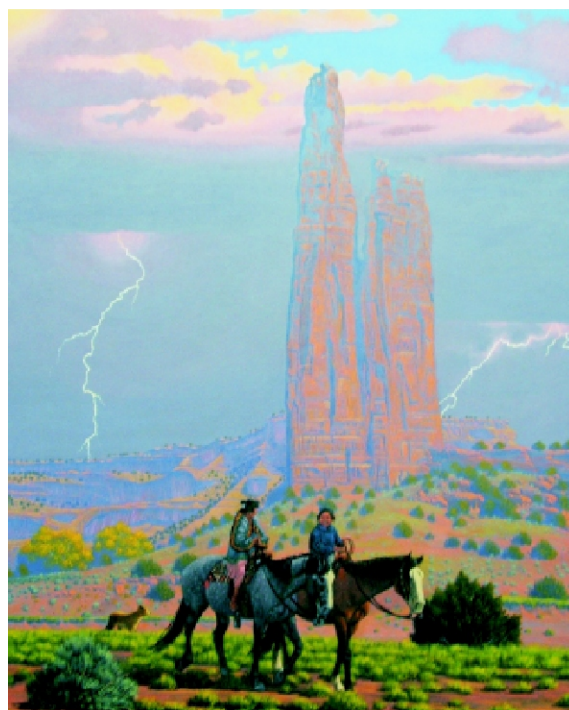
24" X 48" - O/C

William  
(*Willie*)  
Murphy

Paintings



40" X 30" - O/C



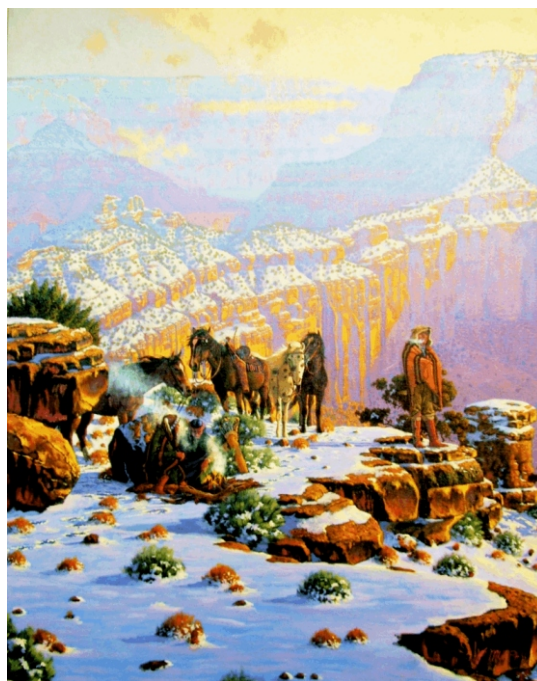
36" X 24" - O/C

William  
(*Willie*)  
Murphy

Paintings



36" X 24" - O/C



36" X 24" - O/C



