

Going *Big*

GREYSHOES (UPTON ETHELBAH JR.)

(Santa Clara Pueblo/White Mountain Apache)

SANTA FE, NM

Greysheoes, who many people also know as Upton Ethelbah Jr., wants to make a splash at his new show at Manitou Galleries in Santa Fe, New Mexico. So the Albuquerque artist is going big on September 13 when his new works hit the gallery's Canyon Road location.

"I want to make a statement, that I can do those small 16-inch-tall pieces, but also four-, five- and six-foot-tall monuments as well," Greysheoes says from his studio, where he was wrapping up completion

on three remaining pieces for the September show. The gallery exhibition will come at an exciting time for the



1. *Apache Crown Dancer*, bronze, ed. 3 of 12, 35 x 15"
2. *Apache Sunrise Ceremony*, Carrara marble, 48 x 24"
3. *Greyshoes* (Upton Ethelbah Jr.) with one of his larger bronze works.
4. *Blue Corn*, bronze, ed. 18 of 30, 28 x 7 x 6"
5. *Kiva Woman II*, bronze, ed. 3 of 7, 60 x 12 x 12"

accomplished and award-winning artist: the month prior he will have a booth at *Santa Fe Indian Market*; a week before that he will participate in the annual Santa Clara Pueblo Feast Day, which he has danced in for the last 39 years; and then the Manitou show, which will allow him to show his newest works in a gallery setting. "It's an exciting time for me. I've danced at the Feast Day celebration for 39 years and this year I don't know if I will be able to do it, but my sons will be dancing and I will be singing."

Greyshees' newest pieces include the four-foot-tall *Apache Sunrise Ceremony*, carved out of Carrara marble, an Italian marble preferred by many of the great Renaissance artists—Michelangelo's *David* is carved in the particular kind of marble, all of which come from Carrara in Tuscany, Italy. "It's my favorite stone to work with. It has integrity. We say that because sculptors are 99.9 percent sure you can do anything with it with no cracks, flaws or discoloration," Greyshees says. "It's a beautiful, beautiful stone."

The work itself, which took six months to complete and weighs more than 400 pounds, depicts the coming-of-age ceremony that a young White Mountain Apache girl would go through as she transitioned to womanhood. "My father's people were White Mountain Apache, and their sunrise ceremony was a special event. It was a right-of-passage for young girls. The work depicts the girl with five Crown Dancers all around her," he says, adding that the piece is double sided. "The dancers literally have her back. They are mysterious beings. They are no longer human. They are mountain spirits that have come to protect her and drive away evil spirits."

The artist is inspired by the White Mountain Apache heritage of his father, and the Santa Clara Pueblo heritage of his mother. He received his Greyshees name from his grandfather on his father's side of his family. "My grandfather had an Indian name just like we all do historically. His name meant Greyshees. Well, when he came down and met some soldiers or missionaries, or whoever was there, and they asked his name he



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told them his name but they couldn't understand what he was saying. It was too complicated for them, so they told him his name was Kay Ethelbah," the artist says. "So now, in honor of my grandfather, I use the name Greyshees. It's how I sign all my works."

Other pieces in the show include the beautifully colored bronze *Anasazi Tsideh*, which refers to the brightly feathered parrots that were traded in New Mexico as far back as 1,000 years ago, and *Blue Corn*, another work with a magnificent patina, this one in spectacular shades of blue. Also in the show is another marble work, *Tablita Woman*.

"Working in stone is a marvelous, mysterious and miraculous event," Greyshees says. "I still don't know how it happens. My hands and mind and my heart are guided and it just happens, and then when it's done." «



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Manitou Galleries

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225 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501
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