The eldest of five siblings, **Roseta Santiago** was born and raised in Washington D.C. Her father was a chef on the aircraft carrier USS *Missouri* and at both the White House and the Blair House for Harry Truman while serving for 35 years in the U.S. Navy. He was born in the Philippine Islands to a Spanish father and a Filipino mother. Santiago’s mother was born and raised in Pennsylvania. Her mother’s parents were Irish, German, and Polish, the family having fled from Europe because of their ancestry. “There is such mystery surrounding our heritage. This may be a clue to my curiosity about subjects and lineage of the objects I paint. I am fascinated by mystery, illusion, and the unknown. My determination and drive came, no doubt, from my dad, who raised his large family based on a third-grade education and hard work.”

Santiago started her career as an exhibit and graphic designer. In 1976, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she expanded her design business to include theme restaurant and nightclub design/build and marketing. She soon enjoyed a successful career that included travel throughout the U.S., Costa Rica, and Puerto Rico.

In 1994, the Bass Pro Stores retained Roseta to paint wildlife murals for their stores. These projects included life-size murals depicting fishing, hunting, and camping scenes, including indigenous foliage and wildlife. Of her time there she says, “This earned me the moniker ‘Paintslinger.’” After completing work on 32 stores, she moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2000. There she established a home and studio, and her lifetime dream to paint her vision in oils became a reality.

Mystery and light engulf the unique Western and Asian artifacts that are the subjects of her early body of work. She paints the beauty and integrity surrounding each of her subjects—usually objects that have been made by hand with primitive tools and resources—and is a master storyteller about the images she paints. Santiago is interested in the magic, intrinsic virtue, and makers of these objects. The subjects of these paintings are part of her ever-growing collection of eclectic artifacts. Her current body of work expresses feelings and stories about the people who made these objects. “Traditional peoples are fascinating to me: their beliefs, regalia, ceremonies, and day-to-day life.”

Her work is influenced by Hovsef Pushman, Emil Carlsen, and John Singer Sargent. Her style is realistic but leaves room for the viewer’s imagination. Recognized and collected internationally, Santiago’s work may be found in the permanent collections of the Tucson Museum of Art, the Booth Museum of Western Art, and in many private collections.

She has successfully exhibited at the Briscoe Museum’s *Night of Artists*; the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art’s *Quest for the West Art Show & Sale*; the Autry Museum of the American West’s *Masters of the American West Art Exhibition and Sale*; the Taos Museum–Fechin House in Taos, New Mexico; the Desert Caballeros Western Museum’s *Cowgirl Up!* show; the *Coors Western* *Art* *Exhibit & Sale*; and Settlers West’s *American Miniatures* show.

Santiago and her paintings have been featured in the publications *Art of the West* (including the cover of one issue), *Cowboys & Indians*, the *Santa Fean West* (including the cover of one issue), *Southwest Art*, and *Western Art Collector West* (including the covers of three issues). She is a featured artist in the book *Western Art of the Twenty-First Century: Native Americans* by E. Ashley Rooney. Copies of her book *Conversations in Paint Language: The Art of Roseta Santiago*,though currently out of print, can still be obtained through Amazon.com. Visit her websites at rosetasantiago.com and EarthRockNews.com.

Self-taught, Santiago lives and paints in Santa Fe, New Mexico. “I paint every day that I can. And every day I have something new to say about art and why I am so consumed. . . . I am completely inspired and will celebrate my senses and life by painting and storytelling because I cannot help myself. . . . It is very much like being five years old and seeing the world as new. . . . a mystery and magic that I am privileged to play with.”

Roseta Santiago is represented by Blue Rain Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Durango, Colorado; and Parsons Fine Art, Taos, New Mexico.

717 words