

Local Artist's Sculpture Adorns Apodaca Building as Part of Governor's State Beautification Initiative

By Joe Vigil, GSD Public Information Officer

SANTA FE, NM - For local artist Giberto Romero, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's investment in the state's beautification initiative has fulfilled his lifetime dream of having one of his pieces publicly displayed in his hometown of Santa Fe.



Romero's vision has taken on a lasting presence with the recent installation of his striking sculpture, "Lasting Windsong", at the state's Apodaca building in downtown Santa Fe. The sculpture, a dynamic composition of intertwining metal forms, stands boldly against the backdrop of the building's territorial style architecture. Crafted from bronze and steel, the piece evokes themes of resilience and interconnectedness of New Mexico's great outdoors — concepts Romero says are inspired by his love for the outdoors.

"For me, my work is about capturing the resilience of the natural world's vegetation - twisting, turning and fighting for that vital sunlight they need to survive," Romero said. "I'm an outdoorsman and I see these shapes in trees and plants as they fight to get that sun after being blocked or pushed down by other trees, plants and objects."

Romero says he sees this incredible will to live, and he brings those shapes home to the studio to put his own take on it in metal.



I have always been envious of talented painters and artists, said Romero, since I can't draw a straight line, but I can express myself in metal that way.

"The Lasting Windsong piece also means a lot to me because I was able to work on it with my son, Gilberto Jr., who helps me out here quite a bit," said Romero. "He and I laid out and fabricated that piece so that was a real special one for me."

A native of Santa Fe, Romero's work has been a staple at a couple of local galleries. Known for his ability to manipulate metal into fluid, organic shapes, he has garnered a loyal following. His latest work, however, represents a shift toward large-scale public installations, an avenue he says offers a great connection with local and visitor viewers alike.

State officials praised Romero's contribution, emphasizing how public art enriches shared spaces.

"Gilberto's sculpture enhances the aesthetic of the Apodaca building," said Anna Silva, the General Services Department Acting Cabinet Secretary. "His talent represents the vibrant, creative artists that live and work in Santa Fe, and whose art plays a huge role in meeting the Governor's beautification initiative with art in public spaces."

"Art should be accessible to everyone," Romero said. "Having my work displayed here, where people pass by every day, is incredibly meaningful and I hope it inspires others."

The artist said the project wouldn't have been possible without the work of Silva, Larry Ford, the state's project manager, and the team at Winterowd Gallery. He said he's very grateful for the purchase from the State and honored to have a piece displayed in our city.

"Larry did an excellent job at making my vision happen as far as building the pedestal," said Romero. "It needed something special in my eyes and Larry was a big part in making that happen. The pedestal perfectly complements the piece and it's beautiful."



With the sculpture now standing proudly in its permanent home, Romero's artistry leaves a lasting imprint — one that reflects the beauty of Santa Fe and his personal expression of resilience of the Land of Enchantment's wonderful outdoors.