

ARTURO CHÁVEZ

The Magic Continues

By Vicki Stavig



Most people probably know Arturo Chávez as an award-winning painter who masterfully captures the colors and shapes of Western landscapes. But there is more to this talented man—so much more. He is also a classical guitarist, a former pilot, a championship tango dancer, and a licensed commercial drone flyer. It is his love of painting, however, that drives him.

“I’ve been pushing paint for 40 years,” Chávez says. “My landscapes come from my heart. It’s my creativity. I’ve created more than 6,000 paintings. There’s a chain from my ankle to my easel.”

Of course, he’s speaking metaphorically; he is as enthusiastic about painting as he’s ever been and continues to fine-tune his approach to his art. “My style is evolving in that I’m becoming more articulate, more involved in the nuances of the landscape,” he says. “The overlapping shapes and aerial and linear perspectives are fascinating to me.”

They’re fascinating to others, as well, and have earned Chávez many awards, including the Phoenix Art Museum Purchase Award in 2011, the Harrison Eiteljorg Purchase Award in 2010, and the Eiteljorg Best of Show Award at that show in

2009. His works are included in public and private collections around the world, and while he appreciates

(Above) Near La Ventana, oil, 24" by 60"

“While in frantic pursuit to catch the sunset on the natural arch at the La Ventana National Monument in central western New Mexico, I caught a glimpse out of the corner of my eye of this beautiful backlit mesa called the Sandstone Bluffs, across the Acoma reservation, and looking west into the sunset. I made an abrupt stop, turned around, pulled out my painting gear and camera, and feasted on this incredible sacred rocky mesa.”