



*Three Ravens, oil, 45" by 60"*

*"I hired a Navajo (Diné) travel guide to take me out to his private homestead near Canyon de Chelly, Arizona. I took numerous photographs of the various rock formations and terrain, then extrapolated drawings with the horizon line well outside the picture plane to arrive at this aerial view of the ravens flying over the spires. The title, *Three Ravens*, begs the question as to where the third raven is. The answer is for the viewer to discover."*

of the land he loves. One of those paintings, *Three Ravens*, he says "was conceived as a result of a painting/photography expedition near Canyon de Chelly. A Navajo guide took me onto his private land there, where I took photos and then did extrapolated drawings to depict the birds-eye view."

Over the years, Chávez hasn't limited his landscapes to New Mexico, where he was born and continues to live. He also paints in southern Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and

Arizona, but, "New Mexico is where my heart is."

He's also traveled to Europe several times and in 1994, spent four months living and studying in Paris, France, with Carmelo Arden Quin, a Uruguayan artist and founder of the MADI Geometric Art Movement. "I studied with him, applying principles of composition, proportional division, and fabrication," Chávez says, adding that during his overseas trips he has shown his works in France, Italy, Hungary, and Venezuela.

Chávez also occasionally makes his own paints by refining his linseed oil. "Alkali linseed oil is refined by chemicals and can turn brown or yellowish in a few years," he says. "I make my own pure oil, using salt, sand, and hot water to refine it."

He takes another step to ensure that the foundations of his paintings meet his standards. "I often look at my paintings through red glasses so I can see just the black and white of the composition," he says. "I take them off and see color again. Every-