Artist Biography/Résumé: Virginia Maria Romero (New Mexico, US)
Email: vmromeroart@gmail.com
Website: www.virginiamariaromero.com



Artist's full name: Virginia Maria Romero
Subject matter for which known: Visionary art, poetry.
Style of work: Mystical, naïve figures, faces, animals and digital**.**
Preferred medium: Mixed media.

Artist Statement: My work investigates the concepts of sovereign presence, resilience, and spiritual well-being within the contemporary landscape. I work across two separate tracks: physical paintings—executed in acrylics or on hand-carved wood panels with raw, hand-collected natural pigments and a homemade piñon sap varnish—and digital originals. Critically, my digital works are created exclusively by isolating, magnifying, and transforming cropped sections of my physical canvases and panels. This self-sustaining, circulatory process repurposes my own creative output, recycling the organic textures of earth, wood grain, and sap into modern digital strata that preserve a distinct material memory.

Across both mediums, I pair and overlap wildlife imagery alongside human faces to build a visual language of inter-species empathy and shared psychological depth. A vital component of this exploration includes human imagery that is ancestral and tribal in nature, tracing multi-generational human endurance over deep time from its ancient, primordial origins.

I focus predominantly on wolves and coyotes due to their complex histories of displacement, ecological struggle, and enduring mythologies in the American West. Rather than giving these animals human features, my compositions present them side-by-side or structurally overlapping with tribal human countenances. This preserves their wild integrity while mirroring humanity's own historical struggles for survival.

The physical textures of my acrylics, the organic weight of my natural pigments, and the recycled digital layers capture the complicated emotional strata of grief, isolation, and defiance. Ultimately, my art proves that despite historical persecution, the sovereign spirit possesses the native authority to overcome, heal, and coexist.

"Without specific intent my work begins… a subconscious evolution to render form. The effort at once seamless and fluid, a comingling of pigment, touch, and spirit, moves towards shape and purpose. The now recognizable images translate as symbols of new life steeped in mystery from which they were born. In their eyes is a voice that speaks of secrets. If you look and listen closely you will hear them too". ~VMR

New Mexico State University Archives and Special Collections: Professional work and papers of artist Virginia Maria Romero, ca. 1980-2018 New Mexico State University Library Archives and Special Collections, as part of the Rio Grande Historical Collections Repository: https://nmarchives.unm.edu/repositories/18/resources/4304

New Mexico State Historian: A Biographical Sketch written by former NM State Historian, Rick Hendricks, recognizing Virginia Maria Romero as an important New Mexico artist. Link to Profile: https://web.archive.org/web/20240718112551/https://newmexicohistory.org/2012/06/29/virginia-maria-romero/

American Council for Polish Culture:
Virginia Maria Romero recognized as a distinguished Artist and Poet, 2013.

First Conservation Wolf Stamp Sold in the United States: Artwork by Virginia Maria Romero selected by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

New Mexico State University Pete V. Domenici Conference (2008-2018 Resuming 2026): Artwork *MARY WALKS IN HARMONY* by Virginia Maria Romero presented annually to speakers and dignitaries.

Artist Review of Virginia Maria Romero: http://sacredartpilgrim.com/collection/view/43 by John Alan Kohan, who joined the staff of TIME Magazine in 1975, working for the American newsweekly for over twenty years as an Associate Editor in New York, and, later, as a foreign correspondent in Germany and the USSR (which became Russia, again, during his eight-year stint as Moscow Bureau Chief, covering the perestroika era)

Independent Study (2009 – Present): NMSU PH.D. Storytelling Research pertaining to the Arts with Dr. David Boje

Biography: Virginia Maria Romero is a distinguished New Mexico artist whose work has earned recognition for its powerful synthesis of nature, spirit, and human consciousness. Over a career spanning more than four decades, Romero has cultivated a singular artistic language—one that transcends traditional boundaries and invites viewers into a world where symbolism, intuition, and transformation converge.

Her works reside in museum, public, corporate, and private collections throughout the United States and internationally, reflecting a lifetime devoted to artistic excellence and cultural contribution. In 2013, Romero was honored as a Distinguished Artist and Poet by the American Council for Polish Culture, recognizing both the depth of her creative vision and the enduring impact of her work.

Rooted in the landscapes and cultural traditions of the American Southwest, Romero's imagery explores themes of emergence, renewal, interconnectedness, and the unseen forces that shape human experience. Her compositions evoke a sense of mystery and reverence, encouraging contemplation while revealing the profound relationship between humanity and the natural world.

The significance of Romero's artistic legacy has been recognized through the preservation of her professional papers and artwork within the New Mexico State University Library Archives and Special Collections as part of the Rio Grande Historical Collections Repository. Her work has also been featured by the Las Cruces Museum of Art and acknowledged by historians and scholars as an important contribution to New Mexico's cultural heritage.

Romero describes her creative process as a fluid dialogue between pigment, touch, intuition, and spirit.

From this process emerge images that are both deeply personal and universally resonant—works that invite viewers beyond observation and into reflection. Her art serves not only as visual expression, but as a meditation on beauty, transformation, and the enduring mysteries of life.

“Without specific intent my work begins... a subconscious evolution to render form. The effort at once seamless and fluid, a commingling of pigment, touch, and spirit, moves towards shape and purpose.”
— Virginia Maria Romero

Virginia Maria Romero Studio: Email: vmromeroart@gmail.com Website: www.virginiamariaromero.com

Gallery Representation:

Brad Smith Gallery, 716 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM

Galleri Artsight, Hornsgatan 36A, 118 20 Stockholm, Sweden

Shi Yazhi Sage Gallery: 4491 Tribal Road N-57 Tohajiilee, New Mexico 87026 (Select Prints only)

Museums / Permanent Collections / Public Art / Monasteries / Chapels / Original Artworks of Virginia Maria Romero:

2026-Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program / Purchased by City of Las Cruces, NM: WILD ONE VI 48”x24’” Acrylic.
2026-Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program / Purchased by University of New Mexico Gallup, Gallup, NM: CHANGING WOMAN Speaks to Hawk 60”x48” Acrylic.
2025-NM Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program / Purchased by Central NM Community College, Albuquerque, NM: CHANGING WOMAN Speaks to Hawk 30”x30” Acrylic.
2024-City of Las Cruces, “Art Stop” Bus Station Program, Las Cruces, NM; *CROSSING BOUNDARIES Wolf.*
2019-Sun Metro Brio Alameda Corridor, El Paso, Texas; *Urban Wildlife: Coyote Speaks to Raven.*
2018-Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, New Mexico; *Czestochowa #2*.
2015-Holy Cross Retreat Center, Mesilla Park, New Mexico; *14 Stations of the Cross.* Permanent collection for new Chapel.
2011-Millicent Rogers Museum; El Prado, New Mexico; *Espiritu Santo Cruz.*
2010-Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Commemorative artwork: *Passion of Christ*, and *Faces of Mary* presented for Bishop’s 74th Birthday Commemoration.
2010-Vatican-His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, Rome; Artwork: *Unity*, original pigmented wood panel. Acknowledged by letter from Vatican, July 3, 2010. Brother Richard Hirbe commissioned artwork to present to Pope Benedict XVI at Vatican City, Rome.
2010-Virgin Galactic: Artwork: *Blast Off*, Arte de Romero mural and tiles specially designed from original artwork by Virginia Maria Romero representing New Mexico Spaceport – commissioned by New Mexico Amigos & presented by New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, to Virgin Galactic representatives.
2010-United States Courthouse Federal Building, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Artwork: *Outcasts*, *Lone Wolf X*, *Tecuauhlacuepeuh*.
2010-St. Francis Jerome Church, Center, Colorado, Fr. Joseph Vigil; Artwork: *San Juan Bautista* tile mural.
2009-Basilica of San Albino, Mesilla, New Mexico; Artwork: *San Albino.*
2008-Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City; Artwork: *Our Lady of Czestochowa*.
2008-Cardinal Levada, Vatican City; Artwork: *Cristo*.
2008-United States Senator Pete V. Domenici; Artwork: *Mary Walks in Harmony*.
2008-The Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles; Artwork: *Multiple ceramic VMR tile*.
2008-Santa Francesca Romana, Rome (next to the Colosseum); Artwork: *Virgen Mańia*.

2008-Basilica di San Miniato al Monte (Florence, Italy); Artwork: *Virgen Mańia*.
2008-Monte Olivito Maggiore (outside of Siena); Artwork: *Virgen Mańia*.
2007-San Miguel Mission, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Artwork: *Cross Culture*, & *Jesus & Guadalupe Doors*. (exhibition)
2006-Holy Cross Retreat, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Artwork: *Multiple tile pieces*.
2005-El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Artwork: *Virgen María Cruz*.
2004-Governor Bill Richardson, Office of the Governor, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Artwork: *San Rafael Arcánge*l.
2004-Governor Bruce King, Personal collection; Artwork: *San Ysidro*.
2004-San Miguel Mission (Oldest Church) Santa Fe, New Mexico; Artwork: *San Miguel Arcángel de San Miguel Chapel*. Dedicated to the Tlaxcalan Indians and Brother Lester Lewis.
2004-La Posta de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico; Artwork: *El Trabajo de la Mujer Nunca Se Acaba*.
2003-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Artwork: *San Ysidro*.
2003-Maria Stein Heritage Museum/National Marian Shrine of the Holy Relics, Maria Stein, Ohio; Artwork: *St. Catherine of Siena*.
2003-Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine & Parish, Mesilla Park, New Mexico; Artwork: *Cristo Crucificado*; Dedicated to the Tortugas Pueblo.
2003-Las Cruces Catholic Schools, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Artwork: *Sagrada Corazón Cruz*; Dedicated to my son, Zach Romero, and the graduating class of 2003.
2001-The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Artwork: *San Ysidro.*

Gallery/Museum Exhibits and Representation: Lectures, Presentations, Demonstrations & Projects; Featuring artwork by Virginia Maria Romero: *May include future exhibits and events.

2026-June 3-7-CULTURAL FUSION: The Art of Virginia Maria Romero, Galleri ArtSight, Stockholm, Sweden
2026-May 1-June 13-WORD TO IMAGE Group Exhibit, The Mad Hatter Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico
2026-March 6 - March 28-SHE CREATES Group Exhibit Women's History Month, New Mexico Women in the Arts, The Mad Hatter Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico – VMR Works Sold Out
2026-January 16 - February 28-CULTURAL FUSION The Art of Virginia Maria Romero, Solo Exhibit, The Mad Hatter Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico – VMR Works Sold Out
2025-November 13-Art For Women Today Project, Museo Civico Gaetano Filangieri, Via Duomo, 288, 80138 Napoli NA, Italy
2025-November 12-Art For Women Today Project, Museo San Giuseppe Dei Nudi, Via Giuseppe Mancinelli, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy
2025-November 7-23-Art For Women Today Project, Museo Tesoro di San Gennaro, Via Duomo, 149, 80138 Napoli NA, Italy
2025-October 4-12-Art For Women Today Project (Calendar release) Gallery ArtSight, Hornsgatan 36A, 118 20 Stockholm, Sweden
2025-April 23-Art For Women Today Project, Art Now Projects Gallery, Rue Ancienne 60, Carouge, Geneva, Switzerland
2025-March 8-22-Art For Women Today, Foundazione Beta, Via Giusti 24, Rome, Italy
2025-March 7-LCIFF 2025 Poster Artist / Original Painting, STORYTELLERS Nature Speaks, for Las Cruces International Film Festival event at New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico
2024-October 19-Art For Women Today, Galleri ArtSight, Hornsgatan 36 A, 118 20 Stockholm. Sweden
2023-August 2-August 27-Group Summer Show, Galleri ArtSight, Hornsgatan 36 A, 118 20 Stockholm. Sweden
2023-July 5-July 15-Group Summer Show, Galleri ArtSight, Hornsgatan 36 A, 118 20 Stockholm. Sweden
2023-May 20-June 4-Solo Exhibit: Art of Virginia Maria Romero, Galleri ArtSight, Hornsgatan 36 A, 118 20 Stockholm. Sweden

2022-Bill Hester Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM-August 20-Opening Exhibit: Artwork of Virginia Maria Romero
2019-December 15 - 18 – Presentation: Crossing Boundaries: The Art of Virginia Maria Romero in collaboration with Blue Fenec / Anais Gomez - 9th Annual Quantum Storytelling Conference, Las Cruces, New Mexico
2019-November 16, 2019 – January 3, 2020 – Christmas Show, Trails End Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico
2019-November 16, 2019-Shi Yazhi Sage Gallery, Old Town Albuquerque, NM - 2 Artist Showcase featuring Virginia Maria Romero and Ariana Glenn.
2019-October 4-November 29-Crossing Boundaries: The Art of Virginia Maria Romero in collaboration with Blue Fenec / Anais Gomez / Mesquite Gallery, Las Cruces, NM
2019-April 22-Primal Voices: Virginia Romero & Will Clipman / Sinuate Media, Mesilla, NM
2018-Sept.-12&13-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Commemorative Artwork for 11th Annual Domenici Conference: *Mary Walks in Harmony*
2017-Oct 20 & 21-Retablo Workshop and Anniversary Show / St. Philip's in the Hills and CasaBella Fine Art, Tucson, AZ
2017-April 6-The Art of Devotion: Virginia Maria Romero / CasaBella Fine Art, Tucson, AZ
2016-August 1-October 28-Art Windows of El Paso / Virginia Maria Romero & Yeunhee Lee, El Paso International Airport, El Paso, TX
2016-June 25-Label Art Signing, Estrella Del Norte Vineyard, Santa Fe, NM
2016-June 24-All Artists Anniversary Show, Worrell Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.
2015-August 28-October 24-International Exchange Exhibit WBHD II, between Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Bundaberg Australia and Unsettled Gallery, Las Cruces, NM.
2015-June 19-Anniversary (Meet the Artist) Celebration, Worrell Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.
2014-August 9-Group Exhibit: Equus Annum, Kristin Johnson Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM.
2013-April 12-August 4-Solo exhibit: Past-Present-Future/Artwork by Virginia Maria Romero, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico
2012-July 27-Exhibit opening, Manitou Galleries, Santa Fe, NM: Madera - Artistry in Wood, featuring artwork of Virginia Maria Romero and Kim Beesley.
2011-May 6 & 7-Legacy Art Albuquerque XI: The Amado and J.B. Peña Art Has Heart Educational Foundation; VMR artwork sold at live and silent auction: *Lone Wolf X*, and *Guadalupe & Stars*.
2010-Aug.-Oct. 23-Chamizal National Memorial, Abrazos Gallery, El Paso, Texas; Solo Exhibit: *Retablos-A Cultural Legacy: Original Artwork by Virginia Maria Romero*.
2010-Sept.-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Commemorative Artwork for 3rd Annual Domenici Conference: *Mary Walks in Harmony* /Arte de Romero.
2010-New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Wolf Conservation Stamp - First conservation wolf stamp sold in the United States -To Protect Wolf Habitat. Artwork: *Wolf*/Tecuauhtlacuepeuh. Wolf stamp available from New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.
2010-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Artwork: Exhibit & *San Ysidro u*sed for "Blessing of the Fields" procession.
2010-May-NMSU Art Gallery D.W. Williams Hall, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Art Judge – U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Harry Teague 2nd Congressional District 2010 Congressional Art Competition. Winner Jennifer Ober, wins trip to U.S. Capitol for unveiling of artwork: *Enchantment*.
2010-Feb.-NMSU Corbett Center Bookstore, Las Cruces, New Mexico. *Arte de Romero tiles* selected by Barnes & Noble Booksellers to represent region; available at bookstore.
2010-April-Holy Cross Retreat Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Artwork: Panel painted doors on exhibit, *Jesús y Guadalupe*, & *Guadalupe Sol y Luna*.
2009-Dec.-Alameda House, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Senses of the Season, Artwork: *Outcasts*, featured art to benefit the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, and image selected as logo to represent ASCMV.
2009-Nov., Dec., Jan. - Holy Cross Catholic Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Artwork: Panel painted doors on exhibit, *Jesús y Guadalupe*, & *Guadalupe Sol y Luna*.

2009-Nov.- Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Artist of the Month; Artwork: *Faith; San Raphael Archangel; Tecuauhtlacuepeuh; Innocence; Maria; Sundancer; Peace Be With You Altar*; *Conception*.
2009-Oct.-Alma d'arte/Court Youth Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico; WHAT ART? Convention, Co-organizer, curator, and contributing artist; Artwork: *Nakashawu*, *Iktushiwi*, & *Primordial XY* displayed in onsite gallery; W*hat's Art? Mural* and 12' Talking Stick - *Katushiwani* with metal sculpture base for exhibit and procession of event finale.
2009-Oct.-NMSU Aggies are Tough Enough to Wear Pink Campaign, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Artwork: *Shadow Dancers* - donation - sold at auction.
2009-Sept.-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Commemorative art for 2nd Annual Domenici Conference. *Mary Walks in Harmony* /Arte de Romero.
2009-Sept.-DACC hosts, An Evening with Amado Pena at New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum Artwork to benefit DACC; Artwork: *Hawk Speaks to Mary*. Donation - sold at auction.
2009-April thru August-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Featured artist for Solo Exhibit: *Retablo/Metamorphosis/Vision – Art of Virginia Maria Romero*. reception and exhibit.
2008-October-Branigan Cultural Center Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Featured Artist for Solo Exhibit, *Black/White & Beyond*, reception and exhibit.
2008-Sept.-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; DACC "An Evening of Art", art exhibit, sales, auction to benefit Art Scholarships for DACC Students. Artwork: Arte de Romero tile *Hummingbird*; and Virginia Maria Romero original art *Two Old Crows*.
2008-Sept.-Branigan Cultural Center Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Group show, *Three Dreamers*, Reception and exhibit featuring new work by Virginia Maria Romero, George Mendoza, & Paul Hoylen, Jr.
2008-August-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Commemorative artwork for Pete V. Domenici Legacy Project. Original art: *Mary Walks in Harmony* by Virginia Maria Romero/Arte de Romero tiles.
2008-June-Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, Las Cruces, New Mexico; For the HeART of Animals Benefit Auction; Promotional artwork: *St. Francis and His Wild Desert Friends* by Virginia Maria Romero; and Arte de Romero tile mural - *St. Francis and His Wild Desert Friends*.
2008-April-New Mexico State University Corbett Center Art Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Group show, *Three Dreamers*, exhibit and reception featuring new work by Virginia Maria Romero, George Mendoza, & Paul Hoylen, Jr.
2008-April-Casa Esperanza Endowment Foundation, Albuquerque, New Mexico; 6th Annual Hope Chest Auction to benefit Casa Esperanza, featuring original artwork on Hope Chest, *Milagros*, by Virginia Maria Romero. Donation - sold at auction. 2008-Feb.-Artist Studio Tour, Las Cruces, NM; Solo exhibit of new original art.
2007-Nov., Dec.-Justus Wright Galeria, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Featured Artist Solo Exhibit: Unveiling of New Works, artist reception catered by Tatsu.
2007-July, Aug-Hill Country Arts Foundation, Ingram, Texas; Invitational - Featured artist Santos-Retablos-Bultos; artwork also used to promote event.
2007-July-Arius La Fonda Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Featured Artist, artist reception and exhibit during Spanish Market 2007.
2007-June-Alegre Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico; Featured artist, tile signing, reception and original artwork exhibit.
2007-May-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, First Arte de Romero/NMSU College of Business tile presented to William Flores, Provost NMSU, as a result of working with NMSU Arrowhead Center.
2007-January-New Mexico State University, Arrowhead Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Ms. Romero's artwork was selected by the Arrowhead Center as an entrepreneurial project working with the Business College, the first time to combine art and business.
2007-February-New Mexico State Capitol, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Hispanic Culture Day 2007, Award winning piece titled: Mi Vida panel painting on display outside Governor's Office during event.

2006-December-New Mexico State Legislature, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Hispanic Culture Day 2007 Art Contest; Received Honorable Mention for artwork submission titled: *Mi Vida*. *One of top 20 art pieces selected from 92 artist submissions.
2006-December-HGTV, Weller-Grossman Productions, "That's Clever!" North Hollywood, California; One of the featured artists filmed on location at home studio for TV show featuring artists in Las Cruces/El Paso area. Art filmed: *Desert Box Turtle*.
2006-November, December-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico, New Works by Virginia Maria Romero artist reception and exhibit; and Featured Gallery Artist November & December.
2006-September-Holy Cross Retreat, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Franciscan Festival. Art exhibit.
2006-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, San Ysidro Fiesta. *Featured artist for exhibit and demonstrations. Ms. Romero's San Ysidro used for Poster to promote annual San Ysidro Fiesta; and her original *San Ysidro* in the Museum's permanent collection, used for the annual "Blessing of the Fields".
2005-November-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico, Meet the Artist *Featured artist for exhibit and demonstration of panel painting, altars, wood sculpture and crosses; and introduction of new tile and mural art, Arte de Romero tile, reproduced from original art by Virginia Maria Romero.
2005-July-Montez Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Heaven Can't Wait, *Featured artist for exhibit of panel paintings, altars, wooden sculpture, and crosses and demonstration for Montez Gallery's 16th Annual Spanish Market Show.
2005-May-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico; Best Gallery Award Show, *Featured artist for exhibit of panel paintings, wood sculpture, altars, panel painted doors, and crosses.
2005-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico; La Fiesta de San Ysidro, (participated in San Ysidro Blessing of the Fields procession), **San Ysidro* by Virginia Maria Romero used in procession led by Bishop Ramirez.
2005-March-Montez Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Passion, *Featured artist for exhibit of panel painting, altars, wood sculpture and crosses and demonstration for Montez Gallery's 16th Annual Easter Show, to benefit Youth Shelters and Family Services of Santa Fe.
2004-September-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico, Artshop 2004, *Featured artist at Nash Gallery during Artshop 2004, an annual art event including ten local galleries and restaurants.
2004-September-Governor's Office, Las Cruces, New Mexico, *Presented original artwork: *San Rafael Arcangel*, at request by Governor Bill Richardson, *panel painting presented at a private meeting.
2004-August-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Renaming Ceremony honoring former Governor of New Mexico Bruce King. *Presented original artwork: *San Ysidro Labrador* to Bruce King as part of the ceremony.
2004-July-Montez Gallery and San Miguel Chapel, Santa Fe, New Mexico, "Peace on Earth", *Featured artist for Montez Gallery 15th Annual Spanish Market Show. Exhibit of panel painting, wood sculpture, altars, crosses, and panel painted doors, and demonstration at Montez Gallery and San Miguel Chapel (Oldest Church in Continuous use in the United States).
2004-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, La Fiesta de San Ysidro, exhibit of panel painting, altars, crosses, and wood sculpture, with demonstrations, and work from Museum's permanent collection exhibited.
2004-May-Dickerson Event Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico, "Jardin de los Artistas", art auction to benefit Jardin de los Ninos programs for homeless and near homeless children. *(Panel painted door, *El Trabajo de la Mujer Nunca Se Acaba* received top bid at auction). *Donation – top bid of 125 artists work sold at auction.
2004-April-Montez Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Passion, *Featured artist for exhibit of panel painting, altars, wood sculpture, and crosses and demonstration for Montez Gallery's Fifteenth Annual Easter Show, to benefit Youth Shelters and Family Services of Santa Fe.
2003-The Border Book Festival Cultural Center, Mesilla, New Mexico, "Madonna Revisited", *Featured artist and poet for art exhibit and poetry reading exploring "The Female Face of God" (Panel painting, *N.S. de Guadalupe*, on exhibit).
2003-Sept.-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico, Artshop 2003, *Featured artist for exhibit of retablos, reredos, crosses, and bultos.

2003-July-Montez Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Queen of Peace to the World, *Featured artist for exhibit of panel painting, altars, crosses and wood sculpture and demonstrations.
2003-July- New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, New Mexico State University Summer Regional Art Invitational 2003, (Williams Hall). *Featured artist for exhibit of reredos, crosses, and retablos.
2003-May-Holy Cross Catholic Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 2003 Eighth Grade Graduation, *Cross used in graduating procession and graduation mass.
2003-May-Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino, El Paso, Texas, WinStar Gala & Herd of Help, *Featured artist for charity auction to support Jardin de los Ninos, Las Cruces, New Mexico. *Painted 12" pony, *Caballo Santo.* *Donation.
2003-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico "La Fiesta de San Ysidro", **San Isidro Labrador* panel painting from Museum's permanent collection exhibited.
2003-Feb.-Nash Gallery, Mesilla, New Mexico, Cross and Retablo Show, *Featured artist for exhibit of retablos, crosses, and altars, and demonstrations.
2002-July-Montez Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, "Three Texans and a Gavacha", *Featured artist for exhibit of panel paintings, altars, crosses and wood sculpture and demonstrations.
2002-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, La Fiesta de San Ysidro, *Joint lecture with Charlie Carrillo - Retablos and the creative process, and demonstration/exhibit of retablos.
2002-May-JME Studio, Las Cruces, New Mexico, *Featured artist for Step Up For Kids Invitational in support of Memorial Medical Center Foundation First Step Center.
2001-May-Las Cruces Branigan Historical Museum & Cultural Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico, The Ink Poetry Contest 2001 (includes a reading); The Ink Spot 2001, poetry; The Ink and Border Book Festival Poetry Contest 2002, The Healing Road (includes a reading); The Ink Spot 2002, poetry; The Ink Spot 2003, poetry; and The Ink Spot 2004, poetry.
2001-May-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, "La Fiesta de San Ysidro, Blessing of the Fields", **San Ysidro Labrador* bulto used for Procession and Blessing of the Fields, also demonstration and exhibit of retablos.
2000-July-Santuario de Guadalupe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, private showing hosted by Montez Gallery during Spanish Market. **San Ysidro* on exhibit.
2000-Las Cruces Hilton, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Art Auction to benefit Jardin de los Ninos, Las Cruces, New Mexico. *panel painting auctioned. *Donation
2000-Las Cruces Hilton, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Artforms and the New Mexico Chef's Organization, A Taste of Art. Art on exhibit.
2000-New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico, For the Love of Art and Agriculture. Art on exhibit. 1999-Young Park, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mariachi Conference. Oil Painting on exhibit.
1998-Young Park, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mariachi Conference. Oil Painting on exhibit.
1997-New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, NMSU Gala Art Auction - 1997-2001, Oil Paintings auctioned.

Periodicals with reference to artwork by Virginia Maria Romero:

The Las Cruces Bulletin - Friday March 7, 2025, Article: *LCIFF Poster Reveal,* Page. 19.
TREND Magazine - Summer Issue 2023, Bill Hester Fine Art, Artwork photo: *CHANGING WOMAN: Between Worlds*, Page 62.
The Las Cruces Bulletin - October 6, 2022, Article and Photos: Artist Virginia Maria Romero, Painting rhythms hearing secrets, Artwork photos: *Trickster*; *Beyond Boundaries*; *Coyote Speaks to Mary #4*; *Crossing Boundaries #4*; *Wild One*; *Crossing Boundaries*; and artist.
Desert Leaf Magazine - December 2017, Gallery Article featured artists, Artwork photo: *Coyote Speaks*.
Las Cruces Magazine - July / August 2016, Feature: The Spirit of Creation Artist and Poet Virginia Maria Romero, Article and photos of VMR artwork pgs.18, 19, 20.

THE Magazine - July 2012, Feature: The Universe of VR – Four Hundred Years Ago, pgs. 18 & 19 – Article, full 2-page feature photo, photograph by Guy Cross.
Ventanas Magazine - May 2011 – Volume 2, Issue 1 – Feature: A Visionary Santera Virginia Maria Romero pgs. 102, 103 - Article and numerous photos of VMR artwork.
Tucson Lifestyle Home & Garden Magazine - Jan. 2011 – Artwork: pgs. 16 & 17 in feature home.
Ventanas Magazine - 2010 - Volume 1 Issue 2 – Artwork: *N.S. de Guadalupe* door shown on pgs. 34 & 35 in feature home.
New Mexico Magazine - Dec. 2010 Holiday Issue Creative Spirit Pgs. 22-24 – Art: *Mary Walks in Harmony.*
New Mexico Wild! - Cover Art: *Wolf Stamp* 2011 - Summer 2010, Volume XII, Number II.
Las Cruces Sun News - July 23, 2010, Article & photo, *Unity*, Pg. 3C, A Message From The Vatican.
Las Cruces Sun News - May 14, 2010, Article & photo, Pg.1, 2, C, "Blessing of the Fields". Photo: *San Ysidro* bulto featured as part of traditional part of Blessing of the Fields procession at New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. & Photo: Bishop Ricardo Ramirez-San Ysidro bulto.
Las Cruces Sun News - Dec. 20, 2009, Article & photo, Pg. 3C, On the Positive Side: "Art & businesses together to benefit area animal shelter." Photo: *Outcasts*, calendar cover art.
The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram - July 6, 2009, Front Page, Article with photos, "A star rising from Sheffield Lake" by Chronicle-Telegram Staff; Photos: *Migration* and Virginia Maria Romero with retablo of *Maria*.
Desert Exposure - June 2009, Cover Art and Article with Photos, Arts Exposure Section Pg. A17, "Metamorphosis in Paint-An exhibit at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum shows a new side of artist Virginia Maria Romero." Cover Photo: *Migration*; other photos: *Outcasts, LoneWolf X, and Cristo*.
Las Cruces Sun News - April 5, 2009, Article & Photos, Sun Life section Pg. 4E, articles by Luis E. Cruz, "Retablo artist Romero prepares for exhibit" & "Local artist's work reaches Pope by way of Cardinal Levada". Photo: *Cristo, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Mary Walks in Harmony*, & photo of Cardinal Levada at Monastery.
The Round Up - October 2, 2008, Photo & Article, Arts & Culture section Pg. 7, 8, by Jessamyn Buttram, "Visionary retablos artist showcased"' Photo: *Primordial XY*.
Las Cruces Sun News - August 29, 2008, Photo & Article, Pg. 1C & 8C SunLife, by Richard Coltharp, "Artwork honors Domenici"; Photo: *Mary Walks in Harmony*.
The Las Cruces Bulletin - August 29, 2008, Photo & Article, Pg.C20 by Jenna Frosch, "Local artist pays tribute to Domenici legacy"; photo: *Mary Walks in Harmony*.
The Las Cruces Bulletin - April 18, 2008, Photos, page C9 by Joel Courtney; "At the Corbett Center Gallery Exhibit".
The Las Cruces Bulletin - February 22, 2008, Photos, page C8 by Steve Macintyre; "Artforms Studio Tour".
El Paso Times - December 30, 2007, Article Page 3F: "In Las Cruces, eyes are on Virginia Maria Romero" by S. Derrickson Moore; Photo by Norm Dettlaff.
Las Cruces Sun News - December 16, 2007, Article Page 6E: "Artist's incarnations personalize her work, Artist of the Week Virginia Romero" by S. Derrickson Moore; Photo by Norm Dettlaff.
The Las Cruces Bulletin - December 14, 2007, Article, page C12: "Featured Artist Licht, Romero and Drayer find new inspiration in new media" by Joel Courtney.
New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage News - May 2006, Cover Art, *"La Fiesta de San Ysidro",* Shawnna Brown Director. New Mexico State University Press Release - May 2007, "The Business of Art: NMSU students help make art profitable." By Justin Bannister.
The Las Cruces Bulletin - December 15, 2006, Photo, page C9 by Joel Courtney; "Las Cruces artist filmed for HGTV".
The Las Cruces Bulletin - October 20, 2006, Article, Page C12: "A spiritual journey through art, Virginia Romero brings nature and saints to life" by Joel Courtney.
Las Cruces Sun News - July 23, 2006, Article & Photo by S. Derrickson Moore, Page 1E: "Capital Improvement Las Cruces artists make impression in Santa Fe".
Desert Exposure - July 2005, Article, Pages 16-18: "Pictures of Devotion" by Don Toomey; Photos by Don Toomey and Virginia Maria Romero.

New Mexico Magazine - April 2004, Article, pages 30-35: “Spiritual Sanctuary, Adobe supports artist’s visions” by Emily Drabanski; Photography by Kirk Gittings.
Pasatiempo/New Mexican - July 25-31, 2003, Article, Pages 50–54: “Following the Santero Tradition” by Craig Smith; Photograph by Tom Freelove.
Tradición Revista - Journal of Contemporary & Traditional Spanish Colonial Art & Culture, Spring 2003, Page 5, *retablo horse* by Virginia Romero; Photography by Tom Freelove.
Tradición Revista - Journal of Contemporary & Traditional Spanish Colonial Art & Culture, Summer 2003, Page 3, Color photo of *N.S. de Guadalupe* by Virginia Maria Romero.
Tradición Revista - Journal of Contemporary & Traditional Spanish Colonial Art & Culture, spring 2004, Page 39, Color photo of *Cristo* by Virginia Maria Romero.
Ventanas del Valle - Mountain Dreams Publishing, winter 2002, Article, pages 28- 33: “Santera Virginia Romero” by Lee Gemoets; Photography by Kirk Gittings.
Desert Exposure - March 2002, Cover Photo art by Virginia Maria Romero. The Ink - April 2001, Cover Photo art by Virginia Maria Romero; Article, Page 8: “Art as Understanding and Faith-The Retablos of Virginia Maria Romero” by Roy van der Aa; Photos by Roy Van der Aa and Virginia Maria Romero.
The Ink - December 2003, Cover Photo art by Virginia Maria Romero.
Spanish Market Magazine - An annual publication of The Spanish Colonial Arts Society, 2002-page 15-N.S. del Rosario; and 2005-page 23-*Cristo*.

Entrepreneurial Project incorporating the artwork of Virginia Maria Romero: *Virginia Maria Romero’s* art has been selected by New Mexico State University, Arrowhead Center, Dr. Kevin Boberg, Director, Las Cruces, New Mexico, as an entrepreneurial project working with the College of Business - the first time to combine Art and Business. For further information regarding *Romero’s* art and affiliation with NMSU Arrowhead Center please contact Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D. Dean and Professor of Economics Vice President for Economic Development, 575 646-4083; or Dr. Kevin Boberg, Director, NMSU Arrowhead Center, NMSU Business College, 575 646-1434.

2009-Present: Independent Study - NMSU PH.D. Storytelling Research pertaining to the Arts with Dr. David Boje

2025-2027-Accepted for New Mexico Only Purchase Initiative (Prospectus #283), Public Art Program, New Mexico Arts / Department of Cultural Affairs, Santa Fe, NM

2024-2026-Accepted for Southwest Artist Series (Prospectus #276), Public Art Program, New Mexico Arts / Department of Cultural Affairs, Santa Fe, NM

2010/2012-Pre-Qualified Regional Artist Pool by the City of El Paso Museum & Cultural Affairs: *Romero’s* artwork has been accepted in the pre-qualified list approved by the Public Art Committee and the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board. The pre-qualified lists of artists will remain in effect for two years. All Public Art Committee members must be qualified/credentialed professionals and represent the following: 4 members of the PAC shall be representatives of the architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning or engineering, construction or development industries; 4 members of the PAC shall be representatives of the visual arts, such as visual artist, curators, art historians or critics, arts advocates/collectors or arts administrators.

New Mexico Centennial Commemorative artwork: Artwork by Virginia Maria Romero selected New Mexico Creates.

Podcast: Interview with Artist & Poet Virginia Maria Romero
Rhythm & Roads Podcast
Interview host: Joshua Jacob
Year aired on Rhythm & Roads Podcast: Sept. 22, 2025
Program that focuses on culture and community.

Radio: Title: Interview with Artist & Poet Virginia Maria Romero
NMSU KRWG FM Program-PUENTES
Interview host: Emily Guerra
Year aired on NMSU KRWG FM: Sept. 13, 2010
Program that focuses on culture and community.

Radio: Interview with Artist Virginia Maria Romero
NMSU KRWG FM Program-IMAGES
Interview host: Carrie Hamblen
Year aired on NMSU KRWG FM: Jan. 2, 2010
Public Affairs Program focusing on the Arts, Flavor, Culture & People of New Mexico

Books:

Title: Fire and Ice at World's End
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2026
Total Number of Pages in Book:
Artwork: Front Cover by Virginia Maria Romero
Color Plates: Yes

Title: YO'OKO Roars
Author: Kate Scott
Illustrator: Virginia Maria Romero
Publisher: Borderlands Media Publishing
Year of Publication: 2026
Total Number of Pages in Book: 65
Artwork: Front Cover & Back Cover by Virginia Maria Romero
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Dancing with Dennis Hopper's Ghost
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2025
Total Number of Pages in Book: 136
Artwork: Front Cover by Virginia Maria Romero
Color Plates: Yes

Title: SHALANITAWU A Tribute to Keith Wilson
Author: Virginia Maria Romero
Publisher: Borderlands Media Publishing
Year of Publication: 2024
Total Number of Pages in Book: 48 plus Biography page and Index
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Stealing the Hopi Snake Dance
Author: James C. Wilson

Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2025
Total Number of Pages in Book: 149
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: A Death Demanded
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2025
Total Number of Pages in Book: 154
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Santa Fe Assassin
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2024
Total Number of Pages in Book: 149
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Pecos Reckoning
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2023
Total Number of Pages in Book: 140
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Taos Vendetta
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2023
Total Number of Pages in Book: 138
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Devil on Canyon Road
Author: James C. Wilson
Publisher: Sunstone Press
Year of Publication: 2023
Total Number of Pages in Book: 157
Artwork: Front Cover
Color Plates: Yes

Title: August Kibler's Stories for Tyler Voices of Context from Eden to Patmos
Author: T.P. Graf
Publisher: T.P. Graf
Year of Publication: 2020
Total Number of Pages in Book: 178
Artwork: New Cover 2023
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Quantum Storytelling Annual Review Volume 10 2020
Publisher: David Boje
Year of Publication: 2021
Total Number of Pages in Book: 313
Artwork: Pages 248-256
Color Plates: Yes

Title: We'Moon 2021 Gaia Rhythms for Women The World
Publisher: Mother Tongue Ink
Year of Publication: 2020
Total Number of Pages in Book: 240
Artwork: Page 115
Color Plates: Yes

Title: Wolf Warriors V: *Wolves in Time*
Publisher: Thurston Howl Publications
Year of Publication: 2019
Total Number of Pages in Book: 263
Artwork: Pages 74, 222, 260

Title: Give Us This Day
Publisher: Liturgical Press
Year of completion: 2019
Color Plates: Yes
Artwork: Back Cover

Title: Wolf Warriors IV: *Wolves of Light and Darkness*
Publisher: Johnathan Thurston / Thurston Howl Publications
Year of Publication: 2017
Total Number of Pages in Book: 152
Artwork & Poetry: Pages 120-123

Title: Una favola vera
Author: Elisabetta Frejaville
Year of Publication: 2016
Color plates: Yes
Total Number of Pages in Book: 173
Front Cover Art: "St. Faustina Kowalska"

Title: Tribal Wisdom for Business Ethics
Author: Grace Ann Rosile
Year of Publication: 2016
Total Number of Pages in Book: 261
Color Plates: Yes
Front Cover Art: "Raven Speaks"

Title: Ideas in Critical Postmodernism, Volume 1 Work and Organization: The Aesthetic Dimension
Front and Back Cover Art: "Techno Spirit" by Virginia Maria Romero
Color Plates: Yes
Series Introduction: David Boje
Total Number of Pages in Book: 202
Year of Publication: 2009 (ISCE Publishing)

Title: The Storytelling Organization
Back Cover Art: “Techno Spirit” by Virginia Maria Romero
Author: David M. Boje, Ph.D. (London: Sage Publishers)
Year of Publication: 2008
Color Plates: Yes/Back Cover

Title: The Trail of Painted Ponies Collector’s Edition
Referenced on page 65, Spanish Horses, “Caballo Santo” art by Virginia Romero.
Author: The Trail of Painted Ponies
Year of Publication: 2004
Total Number of Pages in Book: 123
Color Plates: Yes
The Trail of Painted Ponies: Contact: Karlynn Keyes: Ph. 480-459-5700

Title: Ride the Sky
Referenced on page 35 & 36 *Caballo Santo* art by Virginia Romero.
Author: The Trail of Painted Ponies
Year of Publication: 2007
Total Number of Pages in Book: 99
Color Plates: Yes

Brochures:

Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley
Title: Scruffy Needs a Home
Art: Virginia Maria Romero
Author: Virginia Maria Romero
Year of Publication: 2008

Films:

Title: Heart of the Arts
Reference to Artwork of Virginia Maria Romero
Producer/Director: Ed Breeding
Year of Publication: 2008
Copyright 2008 Enlightenment Productions

Title: The Sacred Hunt
Beaded leather coats by Virginia “Ginny” Romero worn by producer throughout film.
Producer/Director: Randall L. Eaton, Ph.D.
Year of Publication: 1997
Copyright 1997 Sacred Films

Title: NMSU Inaugural/Convocation video for NMSU President Barbara Couture
Includes clip of artist Virginia Maria Romero at work in her studio in Las Cruces, NM.
Year of Publication: 2010

Television:

Title: HGTV That’s Clever!
Desert Box Turtle by Virginia Maria Romero featured on program.
Episode #: HCLVR-424 Leopards, Turtles, & Owls

Year aired on HGTV: February 6, 2009

Music & Artwork:

CD: *"We Are The Drum" – "We Are One"*
Year of Publication: 2018
Front Cover Art by Virginia Maria Romero

CD: *Iktushiwi: Raven Speaks*
Year of Publication: 2012
Copyright 2012 Virginia Maria Romero & Karuna R. Warren & the New World Drummers.
Cover art and poetry/songs by Virginia Maria Romero

Quotes/Excerpts from art collectors, museum curators, and patrons regarding Virginia Maria Romero artwork:

Virginia, "I returned from vacation to finally see your artwork in person. I must say that it is stunning! You really are a very talented artist." Michael Groomer, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Arts – Chamizal National Memorial

"My prayers for you, your family and my gratitude for the gift you so freely give in bringing the sacred to life... "May we be ever ready to tell them the reason for our hope, I remain," -
Bro. Richard Hirbe, fsp Founder – Minister General Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles.

"Just like the rainbow caused by the droplets of a waterfall, the art of Virginia Maria Romero presents to us a beautiful illusion standing still, motionless, captivating us with its beauty." "Romero has taken an ancient art form and redefined it, reinvented it, and made it her own." "Virginia Maria Romero's art speaks a language unlike any other…it is a language of the heart, of the soul, of life." - Luis Cruz, Writer, Philosopher.

"Retablo, Metamorphosis, Vision" shows the stylistic evolution of this popular regional artist. "The opening in April was a smashing success," Walker adds. "This is also going to be an unforgettable show for volunteers and staff." - Megan Walker, Exhibits Designer, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.
"Virginia Romero's artwork was popular and the Museum would welcome her for a return exhibition in the future. I think you will find the art of Virginia Maria Romero to be unique, of superior quality, and beautiful expressions of spiritual imagery." - Toni Laumbach, Chief Curator, Director of Museum Programs, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

"What I like most about (Romero's) artwork is that she is able to recreate a traditional art form by bringing out the spiritual elements in it in such a way as to make it her own," says Megan Walker, Exhibit's Designer for the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. "She is very dedicated to her work and it shows. It's no wonder people are touched by it." - Megan Walker, Exhibits Designer, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

"(Romero) is many things. She is part naturalist, part storyteller, part searcher and... creative genius," - Nathan Small, Wilderness Protection Coordinator for New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and a Las Cruces city councilor.

"Each time I pass one of your retablos or paintings on my walls, I say to myself .....I'm so glad I bought that. Your retablos and paintings give me a thrill every time I see them in my home." - Joyce Leverett, patron and fine art collector.

“I have personally known Virginia for the last five years and during that time I have had the opportunity to see and to study many of her very beautifully painted retablos. She is truly a devotional artist employing the traditional Spanish Colonial materials and methods in her works. She continues in her endeavors to follow traditional guidelines while at the same time putting her own very distinctive art print on her creations.” - Donald F. Toomey, Author, contributor Tradición Revista, patron and fine art collector.

“I have come to appreciate her skills as an artist, patron of the arts well beyond her own works, docent, and community activist promoting the cultural underpinnings of our community. Whether looking for someone with a single one or a combination of these attributes, I could not think of anyone more qualified than Ms. Romero. She, in my opinion, exemplifies all that is right with the arts and why we should continue to support them.” - Kevin B. Boberg, CEO, NMSU Arrowhead Center.

”It is my privilege to share with you in order to authenticate the story behind one of Virginia Maria Romero’s tile retablo icons making its way from Santa Fe, NM to Long Beach, CA to Vatican City, Rome. Her retablo’s have a way of speaking to as well as drawing many to prayer and contemplation.” Respectfully submitted - Bro. Richard Hirbe, fsp Founder – Minister General Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles.

“Something about the eyes draws me to your work, it gives me chills. I’m in awe of your work, I love all of it. It is so beautiful…” Diane Ott, art patron.

“Your gift of art is from God. Thank you, very much, for signing the tile for me... I've shared it with soooo many people who agree that your works are divinely inspired... I have told a lot of people that it is, undeniably, the most beautiful thing I own...” - Bridget Byam Novak, art patron.

www.sacredartpilgrim.com**:** a website created by John Alan Kohan, includes artwork by Virginia Maria Romero of Las Cruces, New Mexico. An artist profile for Romero, which includes works recently purchased and added to Kohan’s collection, are featured on website. Information about John Alan Kohan-Biography**:** After earning a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.A from Columbia University in literature (with a brief interlude at the University of Leningrad to study Russian!), he joined the staff of TIME Magazine in 1975, working for the American newsweekly for over twenty years as an Associate Editor in New York, and, later, as a foreign correspondent in Germany and the USSR (which became Russia, again, during my eight-year stint as Moscow Bureau Chief, covering the perestroika era).

Poetry of Virginia Maria (Ginny) Romero: *Virginia Maria Romero* is a published and award winning poet. *Ms. Romero’s* mentor, poet Keith Wilson, is currently the Poet Laureate of Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he lived with his wife Heloise, was born in New Mexico in 1927 where he remained a poet and a teacher. *Keith Wilson* was a Professor Emeritus at New Mexico State University. In the English Department he was poet in residence and instrumental in the early development of the creative writing program and *Puerto del Sol*.

Poetry Readings / Book Signings / Published poetry of Virginia Maria (Ginny) Romero:

2019-Virginia Romero & Will Clipman: Primal Voices, Sinuate Media, Mesilla, NM
2015-2016 -Multiple Poems published online by Grant Handgis, Brother Coyote Publications, Tucson, AZ. (Digital and hard copies of poems with reviews by Grand Handgis BCP available upon request).
2005-March-COAS My Bookstore, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Book signing for poetry book, The Turtle Called My Name.
2005 - February – Hastings Books Music and Video Store, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Book signing for poetry book, The Turtle Called My Name.
2004-May-Las Cruces Branigan Historical Museum & Cultural Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico, The Ink Poetry Contest 2004, (Poetry Reading).

2003-The Border Book Festival Cultural Center, Mesilla, New Mexico, "Madonna Revisited", (Poetry Reading & Art Exhibit) about "The Female Face of God", (Reredos of N.S. de Guadalupe on exhibit).
2002-May-Las Cruces Branigan Historical Museum & Cultural Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico, The Ink and Border Book Festival Poetry Contest 2002, "The Healing Road" (Poetry Reading).
2001-May-Las Cruces Branigan Historical Museum & Cultural Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico, The Ink Poetry Contest 2001 co-sponsored by The Ink and The Border Book Festival, (Poetry Reading).

Poetry Publications & Bibliography: Including poetry by Virginia Maria Romero (Ginny) & references:

Shalanitawu-December 2024 Poetry/Art Book by Virginia Maria Romero in tribute to Keith Wilson.
From Under the Raven's Wing—(Voices from Two Worlds…, A book of poetry co-written and published by Ginny Romero and Hector Telles, 2005, *Poetry.*
The Turtle Called My Name, A book of poetry written and published by Ginny Romero, *2005, Poetry.*
The Ink Spot, An anthology of poems from The Ink poetry contest 2005, *poetry.*
Las Cruces Poets and Writers Magazine, A publication of poetry and short fiction, *January 2005, Poetry.*
Las Cruces Poets and Writers Magazine, A publication of poetry and short fiction, *January 2004, Poetry.*
The Ink Spot, An anthology of poems from The Ink poetry contest 2004, *Award-winning poetry.*
The Ink Spot, An anthology of poems from The Ink poetry contest 2003, *Poetry*.
Desert Exposure, A monthly community publication serving Southern New Mexico, *March 2002 Cover, and Article including poetry*.
The Ink Spot, An anthology of poems from The Ink poetry contest 2002, as part of The Border Book Festival, A*ward-winning poetry.*
Ventanas del Valle, Mountain Dreams Publishing, a tri-yearly publication of Southwest living featuring homes and artists, *Winter 2002, Article: "Santera Virginia Romero", with reference to poetry,* article by Lee Gemoets, photography by Kirk Gittings.
The Ink, A monthly publication of art in Southern New Mexico, *April 2001 Cover, and Article including Poetry: "Art as Understanding and Faith-The Retablos of Virginia Maria Romero".*
The Ink Spot, An anthology of poems from The Ink poetry contest 2001 co-sponsored by The Ink and The Border Book Festival, *Award-winning poetry.*

Award Winning Poetry:

For My Husband
Alone together we enter night's arena.
With one last glimmer,
twilight embraces fertile, moist darkness…
So shall we remain adorned in shadows,
vulnerable, sustained by faith…

Virginia Maria Romero (Ginny) © 2001
1st Place, Explorations of Love category
The Ink Poetry Contest 2001
Co-sponsored by The Ink and the Border Book Festival
Contest Judges: Kevin McIlvoy, Joseph Somoza, & Michelle Holland

Black and White (Working on shades of Grey)
I admire the setting sun as it paints the land in shades of crimson,
To camouflage the bloodstains of our ancestors,
As the blood still flows on our city streets.
I watch as another fallen star hurls itself as a sacrifice,
Illuminating night's canvas.
Paying tribute to the end of another day

I must surrender now to sleep,
Always the seductress,
With her lure of a beautiful dream.

Virginia Maria Romero (Ginny) © 2002
1st Place, Reflections of the Journey category
The Ink Poetry Contest 2002
As part of the Border Book Festival
Contest Judges: Kevin McIlvoy, Joseph Somoza, & Michelle Holland

Waiting for Breakfast
I've watched you weave those delicate threads,
your moves,
silken,
carefree deliberateness,
As I struggle inside your web…

Virginia Maria Romero (Ginny) © 2002
1st Place, Short Length category
The Ink Poetry Contest 2002
As part of the Border Book Festival
Contest Judges: Kevin McIlvoy, Joseph Somoza, & Michelle Holland

Information regarding poetry contest judges:

Kevin McIlvoy, has taught creative writing for more than 20 years at New Mexico State University where he has been editor-in-chief of the national literary magazine, *Puerto de Sol.* He is currently on the Board for the Dona Ana Arts Council. His short fiction has appeared in many magazines and his novels include *Little Peg* and *Hyssop*.

Joseph Somoza, immigrated to the U.S. from Spain in 1949. He has taught English at the University of Texas at El Paso, in Puerto Rico and at New Mexico State University for 22 years, where he was also poetry editor of *Puerto de Sol*. He is currently one of the poetry editors of *Sin Fronteras Journal*, a regional literature magazine. He has published seven books and chapbooks of poetry, most recently *Cityzen*. Somoza has been published in numerous journals, e-zines, and anthologies, and has read his poems in more than 100 venues throughout the U.S.

Michelle Holland, is a creative writing teacher at Onate High School as well as a published poet and essayist. She is also co-editor of *Sin Fronteras Writers Without Borders Journal.* Her writing often weaves elements of science and everyday life into her poetry and nonfiction. Her work has appeared in many literary journals and has published a poetry chapbook entitled, *Love in the Real World.*