

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval

“And so, I don’t give up process or tradition, I incorporate it. And when in incorporating it, it becomes my own type of visual language . . . that hasn’t before been created, and so I sometimes fit between craft shows, art shows.”

Originally from New Mexico, Arturo Alonzo Sandoval has both Hispanic and Native American (Tano) heritage. His interest in fiber arts as visual expression began when he took a beginning weaving course when he was a graduate student at California State College in Los Angeles. He was captivated by the technique, but it wasn’t until he began pursuing more personal ideas, surfaces, and forms that he felt a spiritual connection. He earned a MA in sculptural fiber art in 1969 and a MFA in 1971. He began teaching, and in 1974, he joined the University of Kentucky (UK) Department of Art faculty. At UK he enjoyed a large studio and freedom to explore recycled materials for his fiber art expressions, receiving a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts for his creative research in machine stitching and interlacing. He especially enjoys working with exotic, high tech materials like recycled Mylar, Lurex, and Diffraction Grating. The reflective, transparent, or colorful nature of the materials gives his work a flamboyant quality. He continues to pursue the cutting edge in his field, sharing his creations through national and international exhibits, and winning awards and fellowships. He encourages his art students to work hard, develop discipline, take risks, be self-motivated, and participate actively in campus and arts-related events.