

On May 4, 1947, in Alta Dena California, Dorothy and Leonard Kolouch gave birth to a lovely baby girl. They named her Linda Suzanne. "She'll be an artist!" exclaimed Leonard, Illustrator and television set designer. "No, she must be able to support herself in the 21'st century Len! Art will never give her that ability!" said Dorothy, house maker. Well Linda , with much luck lived through the 60's in southern California, with little more than a beach boys scar, a 57 MG, and a nice tan to show for it.

Maria Patricinio and Ignacio Gonzalez came to New Mexico in search of something better, somewhere they could raise their children. They began to come to this country as migrant workers from near by Mexico, working the fields; picking pecans and chile, buying their time to gain their citizenship. Francisco Xavier was born November 27 19xx in Las Cruces, New Mexico, x of their 14 children. This was to be the middle of three boys and possibly the most interesting. Being struck by lightening and run over by a tractor (both before his 12th birthday) was the least of the excitement in his life. He had yet to meet Linda.

Leonard got his way and it was when Linda was based in Madrid Spain that the artistic spark rang. Beyond getting whacked by the nuns for talking in the halls, she sang, played organ, and accordion in her 12 years of catholic school. It was in spain though that she began to paint. She studied with Clarence Shivers, pronounced African American artist for several years while overseas.

Through an odd turn of events, Linda, now working in the and Francisco Gonzalez, hazardous waste engineer; came together (I don't like to think about that part) and on October, 28, 1975, the clouds parted in Panorama City, California, and Linda gave birth to Raymond William. (Wait...that's me!) "He'll be an artist!" exclaimed Linda! "A what?" questioned Francisco.

Linda and Francisco gave Raymond the tools he needed to succeed. For Linda, it was a private education and art classes. For Francisco, it was a \$20 Makita drill. (what a score!) Raymond always enjoyed the art classes a lot. Going to weekend art class was a great benefit and introduced him to drawing and painting. Private schooling always provided him with ample opportunity to pursue art as well.

High school introduced Raymond to the world of graphic design and ceramics. He would persue both of these fields throughout college. In 1993, Raymond graduated Antelope Valley High School, 173rd in his class. He went on to earn a couple of associate degrees and a bachelors in ceramics. He was very fortunate to be able to study with many skilled artists. Among them (to date) Tom McMillin, Chris Turk, Kevin Myers, Patsy Cox, and Amanda Jaffe.

Raymond received his Masters of Fine Arts degree in the Spring of 2005. He now looks toward his future. Teaching would be a great thing. "The ability to empower others with my knowledge is a great thing" he often thinks.

