

Raymond W. González

Biography

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 21st 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 Patricino 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 nearby Mexico, working the fields picking pecans and chile, buying their time to gain citizenship. Francisco Xavier was born on November 27, 1952 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the middle of 14 children. This was to be the middle of three boys, and possibly the most interesting. Being struck by lightning 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 artist 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.

Through an odd turn of events, Linda now working as a secretary, and Francisco, 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. “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 private education and art classes. For Francisco, it was a \$20 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 design and ceramics. He would pursue both of these throughout college. In 1993 Raymond graduated Antelope Valley High School, 173rd in his class. He went on to earn a Bachelors degree in ceramics. He has been very fortunate to study with many skilled artists. Among them (to date): Tom McMillin, Chris Turk, Kevin Myers, Patsy Cox, Marc Digeos, and Amanda Jaffe.

Raymond received his Masters of Fine Arts degree in the Spring of 2005. He now looks toward his future. “The ability to empower others with my knowledge is a great thing.” I currently work as the Teaching Lab Specialist at the University of Florida working alongside my mentors, Linda Arbuckle and Nan Smith.