



Roxanne Swentzell was born in 1962, in Taos, New Mexico. Her mother, Rina Swentzell, a potter and architect, was a Native American from Santa Clara Pueblo in Northern New Mexico. Her father, Ralph Swentzell was a professor at St. Johns College for 45 years. The mix was turbulent but nurtured creativity. Roxanne was exposed to the richness of Native American culture which included pottery, adobe building, farming, and community traditions of the Pueblo peoples. On her father's side, she was exposed to the wealth of Western philosophy and great works European art.

Roxanne struggled with a speech impediment but at the age of 4, she started using her mother's clay to create small figurines to communicate. The figures showed emotions and simple scenes that were part of Roxanne's world. This became her first language. Roxanne's artistic talents were noticed early and encouraged by parents and teachers alike. By high school, she was invited to attend college level art classes at the Institute of American Indian Arts. After graduating Roxanne went

on to the Portland Museum Art School in Oregon; but cultural roots brought her back to Santa Clara to build her home in the pueblo and raise her two children. Sculpture became the medium that would support her and her family.

Roxanne has always used her work to address topics of gender, culture, environmental issues. She is a Master sculptor using her chosen medium to convey subtle emotions and the human spirit. She has received many awards during her 40-year career. Her work is in the permanent collection at the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Roxanne cares deeply about environmental issues and cultural preservation. In 1987, she helped co-found a non-profit, Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute. Today Roxanne continues to create sculptures and work on community projects, all with intentions of addressing issues of today and creating a better world for generation to come.

