

incorporated into fetish necklaces and his silverwork often have flat geometric bases ground down to accommodate a bezel. Leekya predominately carved leaves, bears, turtles, frogs and birds. His human figurines are quite rare.

**Teddy Weahkee** (1890–1965) was also a labourer at the excavation of the Hawikuh pueblo, and he too saw these ancient carvings first hand as they were being dug up. He has been credited with the revival of the mosaic overlay and inlay styles found on shell and wood ornaments from the site. Along with Leekya and Leo Poblano he was one of the first to carve figures for commercial purposes.

Teddy's turquoise carvings are more angular than those by Leekya. The eyes and nostrils are often represented by drill holes, the mouths often consist of simple, filed horizontal lines and his carvings are generally slightly less polished. The medicine bundle attachments for fetishes were made from authentic arrow points and the point always faced forward.

Weahkee also studied European art and painted with oils. He became famous for his large turquoise pedestal figurines, which are different to those of Leekya's. They are more realistic, less cartoon like and often had a base. Leekya's figures are mostly freestanding. Weahkee is credited with being the first Zuni artist to make inlay jewellery.

**Leo Poblano** (1905–1959) was an extremely accomplished carver and mosaic artist. A self-taught artist, Poblano used hand tools including a pump drill and a hand grinder. His equipment catered for lapidary work only.

He was one of the first carvers to use dot inlay as a decorative element on carvings such

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The realism and beauty of these artists' jewellery and carvings captivate collectors, historians and contemporary artists alike. Their works are displayed in various museums throughout the US although the majority of their work is mainly concentrated in their south-west desert region homeland.

Today, these carvers' works, which now command huge prices, are highly sought after by collectors all over the world. Contemporary Zuni artists continue to create jewellery and carvings utilising these great men's techniques and traditions ■

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Leo Poblano, Inlay ring