

## Meet the Artist: Elaine Linton

Elaine Linton is an Indigenous artist from the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, located in east San Diego County. She is a full-time artist now that she has retired from the corporate world. Art in some fashion is a part of her everyday life and is her favorite form of meditation. Inspired by a local artist in her area when she was a little girl, she has been creating ever since. Elaine loves to draw and paint, using both watercolor and acrylic. She also makes jewelry, pine needle baskets, does soap stone sculpture, and gourd art. But gourd art is where her artistic passion has settled.



On a whim, Elaine took her first gourd class at the Welburn Gourd Farm in Fallbrook, CA, in 2005 and was hooked on gourd art. She left the gourd farm that day with a handful of gourds and immediately began creating. She would stay up every night until the wee hours working on her gourd projects while also working full time.

Much of her gourd work is Native design. Because of her love for people, Elaine is now a gourd art teacher. She loves meeting people, and says the look of satisfaction on her students faces when they complete an art project constantly inspires her to create. Although she now teaches gourd art, she still takes classes from many different teachers and has gained numerous skills. Gourd art has become a wonderful way to express her deep and ongoing passion for art. What Elaine enjoys about working on gourds is that they are not perfect, so the designs do not have to be perfect. There is no end to what you can create on a gourd with a few simple tools.

Elaine continues to create more elaborate and beautiful gourds as her skills grow. She has her own little gourd group following, from beginners to advanced. Constantly inspired by life, Elaine thinks about some form of art daily.

In addition to her creative side, Elaine has a very active side to her life. Elaine is high energy and loves exercise. Her favorite things to do are golfing with her brothers, Zumba, and hiking. She was once a certified personal trainer. She is also very outgoing and always comfortable being the center of attention. She loves to sing while playing her ukulele.





Born in a large family, seven brothers and two sisters, Elaine credits her mother Lucille's constant support and advice for her success. She has a son named Jason, two grandchildren and a great granddaughter. Elaine graduated from Redlands University with a BS in Business and Administration Management and worked in communications for almost 42 years but is now retired.

Elaine is a teacher - Morongo Band of Mission Indians Teacher - Pechanga Silver Feathers. She is a member of the following gourd groups: The American Gourd Society (since 2005); the California Gourd Society (since 2005 and former Director of Southern Programs); San Diego

County Gourd Artists (since 2005, serving as Facebook Coordinator and the website administration team); Gourd Art Enthusiasts (closed); Gourd Arts Tips and Tricks on FB; Gourding Destash on FB. She's also member of the Art of Pine Needle Basketry (since 2020).

