

# TOM WHEELER

## *Mixed Media Sculpture*

Tom Wheeler is a master artist who has been creating hand-crafted art for over four decades. He was raised in a small town in Venezuela, but never perceived his life as lacking. Not "having things" drove him to learning how to create and innovate. Once his family returned to the United States, he turned his talents to leather crafts that are hand-carved perfection with detailed tooling.



As he gained more experience and honed his craft, he transitioned into working with silver and cabachons, and then into other precious and semi-precious metals, copper, and bronze. He expanded his knowledge of wood-craft and transformed from a brilliant hand-crafter to a master-artist. The process of creating art, from conception to completion, brought him tremendous satisfaction and joy.

Currently, Tom is based in Springdale, Utah, and his craft is heavily influenced by Zion National Park. He combines stones, wood, textures, and metals and allows these natural elements to speak for themselves. His primary focus is Impressionistic and Abstract 3D multi-media art.



Tom is inspired by the American Southwest, as a whole, but specifically the petroglyphs created by the ancient cliff-dwellers. One of his most notable pieces are the "Impressionistic shamans" he coined as "Stone-Spirit Shamans". The construction begins with hand-made wood frames and he creates unique and striking art with semi-precious stones. His task is to design and build a stage upon which the shaman shall dance. His intent is to discover the "Stone Spirit" in each creation. These shamans are influenced by Native American mythical beings, called Katsinas, and are dressed in ceremonial robes, large fancy collars, with faces hidden behind ceremonial masks in which they peer out on today's modern world.

His abstract work are compositions that play with the shapes, colors, and textures found in the American southwest. These abstracts provide a completely different experience from the shamans. He states that he allows the "stone to speak to him, rather than finding a theme."



Finally, Tom has taken his art one step further into the realm of jewelry making. He continues to push the boundaries of his craft, experimenting with new materials and techniques, and creating unique and striking pieces that capture the essence of the natural elements that inspire him.

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