

## Nathan Begaye, Hopi/Navajo (1969-2010)

- Exceptional innovator in contemporary Native American ceramics
- Complex blending of design and form

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Nathan Begaye grew up in Tuba City, Arizona, near the Hopi Third Mesa. He began experimenting with pottery when he was ten years old. He studied ceramics at the Institute of American Indian Art (Santa Fe, New Mexico) and at Alfred University (upstate New York). Begaye's style incorporated Hopi and Navajo design elements and construction and firing techniques. His work merged the two distinct ceramic traditions, and in doing so, Begaye created a unique space for exploring and expressing his worldview. The results include stylized geometric motifs, fragmented symbols, and abstracted human and animal sculptural forms.