Encanto Nuevo Mexico

poem by Melinda Jackson

Art by Kim Wiggins
Featured artist of the Masters of the American West 2016

*permission given
In 1536, Cabeza de Vaca shipwrecked and over the Southwest wandered.

Coronado in 1540 searched for cities of gold and a fortune squandered.

Pueblos had corn, squash and beans,

Adobe towns and majestic scenes.

58 years later, colonists came with Onate, a Basque,

To settle New Mexico was his task.
The Piros saved them from the Jornada del Muerto.

The grateful colonists named their pueblo “Socorro”.

At this place on the Rio Grande, they did not stay,

Onward to map coasts, convert natives and find an inside waterway.
San Juan de los Caballeros and San Gabriel were the first colonies.

Onate’s people brought new crops including wheat, melons and chilies.

Goats for milk, chickens and branded cattle,

Woolly sheep, donkeys and horses with saddles.
Revolt

Forever changed, New Mexico’s food, fiber, wealth and travel,
Cultures clashed and faiths were rattled.
Traditions, trials and triumphs – all mesclada,
The Land of Enchantment’s “Whole Enchilada”.