

**Fiesta Centennial Artist,  
Beatrice Maestas Sandoval**  
*Colcha Embroidery Artist*



*Beatrice Maestas Sandoval with one of her Colcha embroideries*

In 2012, New Mexico will celebrate its Centennial and as a tribute to the traditional colonial arts of our state, Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild is pleased to host Beatrice Maestas Sandoval as the Centennial Artist for Fiber Arts Fiesta 2011. The flamboyantly-colorful art of Ms. Sandoval will complement the Centennial Textile Exhibit as well as dazzle Fiesta participants. Ms. Maestas Sandoval is a hardworking and quietly personable woman whose name is synonymous with this traditional art of Colcha embroidery in the Southwest.



Colcha Embroidery developed in New Mexico during the Spanish Colonial Period as a decorative enhancement to normal household goods as well as clothing and personal accessories. Colcha resembles Crewel Embroidery, but unlike Crewel, it employs its unique couching stitch. Ms Maestas Sandoval teaches and practices a traditional form of Colcha which involves not only creating the embroidery yarns, but also the background cloth on which the embroidery designs are sewn. The traditional wool is shorn from the Navajo Churro sheep, is scoured and then readied for spinning. She spins the yarn and colors it using traditional methods of dyeing with natural materials. The background cloth, Sabinilla, is also hand-woven by the artist from the natural colors of the Churro.

Beatrice Maestas Sandoval has been a teacher of both Colcha embroidery and weaving for many years. She has received first place and Best Of Show at the Santa Fe Spanish Market on numerous occasions and has been featured on HGTV (Home and Garden Television). In 2005, Ms. Sandoval was given the Needleworker of the Year award by Piecework Magazine. Her beautiful colcha art pieces continue to be inspired by her Spanish heritage and by the scenic land of her native Nuevo Mexico.