

Rattles for Ramah

Artists Cat and Harriette Tsoie are collaborating with Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) and the Encaustic Art Institute (EAI) to raise funds for the people and animals of the Ramah chapter of the Navajo Nation. The project, known as "Rattles for Ramah," offers art collectors an opportunity to purchase one of the Tsoies' intricate ceremonial gourd rattles. The rattles will be offered for sale as part of the Institute's "Two Worlds" exhibition, active online beginning 8th August - 4th September 2020. Proceeds from sale of the rattles will be shared, with 70% donated to APNM (earmarked for APNM's Ramah project) and 30% to the non-profit Institute. APNM's Ramah project includes helping fight COVID-19 and providing food and care for the Ramah horses. The "Two Worlds" exhibition will also include the Tsoies' paintings as well as resin and encaustic works by Diné artist Michael Billie.

Although part of the greater Navajo Nation, the Ramah chapter has had an independent history. Ramah is not adjacent to the main Navajo Nation, but lies in parts of New Mexico's Cibola and McKinley counties and is east of Zuni Pueblo. More than 95 percent of its land base is designated as trust land. Its land area comprises less than one percent of the Navajo Nation's total area. Ramah Navajo have been recorded in this area of New Mexico since 1540, when they came to the aid of the Zuni in their defense against the Spanish conquistador Francisco Vásquez de Coronado. As of the 2000 census, Ramah's resident population is about 3,500 persons.

