

Carla Marie Munoz



Meet the Artist

Carla Marie Munoz is a Tribal Councilwoman of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe. Serving as a tribal liaison for her people for the past nine years, she creates relationships between state parks, government agencies and other tribal communities. She is focused on creating space for ceremonies, land restoration, as well as tribal recognition. Carla is dedicated to working with tribal youth to restore traditional knowledge and bring tangible culture. For the past 23 years, she has been singing along side her grandfather Chief Tony Cerda, as well as partnering with her Ohlone Sister, Desiree, to share their cultural heritage. She now works as an artist using shells to make contemporary jewelry and oil paintings.

Meaning of Acorns to Carla

"A conversation with my Ohlone relatives help me best describe our relationship with acorn. Acorn is so meaningful and vital to Ohlone peoples and culture. I was once told that acorn is a spiritual food. Truly a gift from the Creator, our fountain of survival, the promise and the legacy. Symbolizing beginnings, new life, new generations, sustainability, food and connecting communities. It's a reciprocal relationship based on respect. To quote my Ohlone Auntie,

*"We pray to it, talk to it, sing and dance for it.
When we give, she gives back."*

—Carla Marie Munoz



Eme Ka Ukos - To all my relations