

PEOPLE

Della Ulibarri among 2008 Spanish Market artisans



Della Ulibarri at her Spanish Market booth

Part-time artist and full-time SFI staffer Della Ulibarri was accepted into this summer's Spanish Market, gaining entry into the exclusive community of artisans on her first attempt.

July 26-27. She'll be guaranteed a booth during the winter event as well.

Her specialty is straw appliqué, a genre invented

The Spanish Market is organized by the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, which supports Hispanic artists through education programs, grants, and production of two annual juried public markets in July and December.

Della's selection allowed her to join several dozen artists selling their wares on the Santa Fe Plaza

in northern New Mexico villages in the 1700s when Hispanic villagers, as a more affordable substitute for traditional gold inlays on crucifixes and other objects of worship, invented a process for adhering straw to wood.

The straw (from hay, corn, or wheat) is split and flattened, the soft inner pith is scraped away, and the straw is cut and glued to wood and sprayed with varnish. The golden straw provides the look of gold inlay.

Della was born and raised in Truchas, N.M., 35 miles northeast of Santa Fe. She moved to Santa Fe in 1985. She completed her 20th year at SFI this summer.

She also displays and sells her art at the Santuario de Chimayo Gift Shop in Chimayo, N.M., and at local arts and crafts fairs. ■