

I was born in Los Angeles in 1951. My mother was born in Concord, California. My father, Adam Vallejo, was born in San Angelo, Texas, and graduated from UCLA in 1951. My father then entered the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer and the family moved to Germany. On returning to the United States my family lived in several states. I attended elementary school in East Los Angeles and Sacramento, middle and high school in Montgomery, Alabama, in the early 1960's, and completed high school in Madrid, Spain, in 1969. I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Whittier College in 1973, completed undergraduate studies in lithography from the University of Madrid, Spain, and received a Master of Fine Arts from Cal State University, Long Beach, in 1978. I now live in Topanga Canyon, California, with her husband of thirty-two years, Ron Dillaway. My son, Robert, attends Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C., and Paul has just graduated in health students from UC Santa Cruz. My first memory of painting was at four years of age and it has continued as my life's dedication. My goal as an artist has been to consolidate multiple, international influences gained from a life of study and travel throughout Europe, the United States and Mexico. My creative influences are many and varied. They include the surreal, violent, and spiritual images of Picasso, Goya, and Dali, Turner's mysterious and glorious skies and cloud formations, Rothko's distant horizons and soft edges, the monumental forms and brilliant coloration of the Mexican muralists Rivera and Siqueros, and the sensual power of Georgia O'Keefe's landscapes, and Ana Mendieta's use of natural materials combined with photography. Finally, I have always had a keen interest in ancient architectural sites, history, and mythology. I have visited several sites in both Europe and Mexico, studied ancient philosophy and symbolism, and participated for the past twenty years in Native American and Mexican traditional ceremony.