



# Faust Gallery



This rare sterling silver and 14k gold bracelet is a powerful symbol of generational artistry—uniting the vision and craftsmanship of three master jewelers: Preston Monongye, his son Jesse Monongya, and grandson Bo Monongye. A museum-quality collaboration, it honors the Long Hair Kachina (Angak'china), a Hopi spirit of rain, harmony, and renewal, and reflects the

spiritual and aesthetic values shared across three generations of Native artists. The bracelet's central figure, hand-fabricated in 14k gold, is the Long Hair Kachina dancer, shown in profile with outstretched arms and traditional regalia inlaid with turquoise, coral, shell, and jet. Flowing black jade hair and a prominent gold rattle—extending beyond the edge of the lost-wax cast sterling silver—capture the motion and vitality of the ceremonial dance. Intricate rows of inlay, composed of lapis, turquoise, coral, black jade, and gold accents, frame the dancer. On either side, two inlaid heart-line bears—a powerful Native symbol of life force and strength—anchor the composition. Every detail, from the texture of the casting to the precise micro inlay, evokes reverence, movement, and deep cultural meaning.





The foundation of this extraordinary piece begins with Preston Monongye (1927–1987), a pioneering voice in the “New Indian Jewelry” movement of the 1960s and ’70s. Born in Los Angeles and raised within Hopi tradition after being adopted at age seven, Preston was immersed in tribal culture and began his silversmithing apprenticeship at just nine years old. Following his military service in World War II and the Korean War, he left federal law enforcement in the early 1960s to pursue art full time—developing a revolutionary style that fused traditional Hopi techniques with bold contemporary forms. Preston’s tufa cast silver works, often set with stones cut by Lee Yazzie and later his own son Jesse, helped redefine Native jewelry for a new generation of collectors and artists.



Jesse Monongya (1952–2024), born of Navajo and Hopi heritage, was raised in the Chuska Mountains by Navajo relatives and shaped by early experiences of resilience and spiritual grounding. After reconnecting with his biological father, Preston, in 1975, Jesse began to hone his jewelry skills under his mentorship, eventually forging a distinctive style that blended Hopi design language with Navajo cosmology.



He became renowned for his inlay techniques and celestial imagery, crafting wearable artworks from turquoise, lapis, coral, opal, and fossilized ivory. His signature bear pendants—symbolizing strength, protection, and cosmic connection—earned him numerous awards and placement in institutions like the Heard Museum and the Smithsonian.

In this bracelet, Jesse's mastery of inlay and reverence for spiritual symbolism find perfect harmony with Preston's bold casting techniques and Bo Monongye's contemporary contributions—bridging past, present, and future. As a third-generation artist, Bo honors this legacy while introducing new energy and perspective, ensuring that the lineage of innovation, spirituality, and craftsmanship continues to evolve.



This bracelet is more than adornment—it is a living testament to the Monongye family's enduring legacy, capturing the essence of Native tradition, personal journey, and the artistry that binds them across generations. Both Preston Monongye and his son Jesse Monongya have passed, leaving behind a powerful legacy of innovation in Native American jewelry. Today, Bo Monongye continues that legacy—balancing his work as a firefighter, raising his family, and creating jewelry that honors the artistic path forged by his father and grandfather.