

September 21, 1996

Native American art showcased

Artists among the few trained by the elders

Traditional arts by San Diego area Native Americans are being shown in the Santa Ysabel Gallery.

Luiseno baskets by Catherine Nelson Rodriguez of the La Jolla Reservation and Diegueno pottery by Yellow Sky off the Santa Ysabel Reservation are displayed. Both artists were trained by elders and are among the few, and possibly the only, practitioners of these arts.

Rodriguez's baskets, strikingly simple in design, are finely woven using pine needles, raffia, black and white horsehair and the increasingly rarely found in San Diego but traditional juncus grass.

Yellow Sky's pottery vessels are in traditional, functional forms and are undecorated other than

the black designs caused by the oak bark used in firing on the red Santa Ysabel clay.

The clay is located, prepared and fired and the piece built entirely by hand and stone according to traditional techniques.

They are described as being powerful in their simplicity and only can be produced when weather and spirit are auspicious.

Santa Ysabel is known in Kumeyaay as "Elkuanan," the place of many oaks. The gallery is in Santa Ysabel in the historic Heliyer House at 340352 Highway 78, at the intersection of Highway 79. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays.

More information about the show or the gallery is available at 765-1676.