



XEITÍ AÓN COAYBAY
Taíno / Borikén

Melanio J. Gonzalez- Cajigáx is a self-taught artist and educator, working in the field of Pre-Columbian Art and Culture.

For the past 20 years, he has taught and lectured in schools and universities throughout Conn., New York, and Mass., using art as an educational tool. He has collaborated in Conn. and N.Y. City with local, State, and National Museums and Institutions as an exhibitor, educator and consultant. He has appeared on radio, television, film and print; and is featured in "War Party Film Productions Inc." (a Native American format) *"An Interview with Taíno Artist: Melanio 'Xeiti Aón Coaybay' Gonzalez."*

He has won numerous awards for his artwork in both Conn. and New York City, and is currently involved with the

"Urban Artists Initiative" in Conn.

A multi-faceted artist whose focus is the Taíno culture, he works in graphics, sandpainting, sculpture (primarily wood and stone), clay, and natural multi-media; crafts gourd instruments and carves log-drums. He has performed with "Cacibajagua" and "Yukayeke Magüey" (traditional Taíno music and dance groups), and writes poetry. Melanio has been the recipient of grants awarded through: "The Urban Artist Initiative Program," with the support of "THE CT. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS," to help facilitate the writing of a book titled: "The Taíno Way: History and Culture Through Art." 12/2002