

# Bockley Gallery



*Cara Romero*

## *Jackrabbit & Cottontail*

Opening Reception: Friday, November 8, 6 to 8 pm

Exhibition: November 8 through December 28, 2019

Artist Talk: Thursday, November 7, 7 pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, Noon to 5 pm

Bockley Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition of photography by Cara Romero. *Jackrabbit & Cottontail*, Romero's premier solo show in Minneapolis, brings visibility to a diverse collection of Native Americans, their stories, lands, and worldviews. Through image, she makes present indigenous folklore that has been passed down through generations of oral tradition. Here the supernatural exists in daily life. Romero's work is fiercely modern, and her characters' indigeneity is as strong as ever.

*Jackrabbit & Cottontail* weaves together folklore with autobiography, fine art with editorial art, and stream-of-consciousness exploration with intricate collaboration. Romero opens our eyes to drastic differences in perceptions between realities and myths of Native America. She offers us an alternate reality. Like ancient rivers of the American land, these characters and cultures exist in the contemporary. They are complex and ever changing. Romero represents modern human beings, not cultural extracts as often seen in museums and popular culture.

Challenging the 'othering' of Native Americans, this collection celebrates diversity, and reinforces the strong presence and participation of indigenous peoples in haute couture, subcultures, and modern society. Romero intricately collaborates to bring in regalia, icons, and stories that are

culturally important to the Native Americans in her photographs. The exploitative history of photography is subverted as these people are given agency. The intimacy of these collaborations result in profound portraiture. This is further emphasized by titles bearing names of those portrayed. “He looked like he understood what I was doing. He had a thousand ancestors in his eyes,” says Romero of *Kiyanni*, a feature of this exhibition.

*Jackrabbit & Cottontail* exudes stories that take place in the “everywhen,” an Australian aboriginal term to describe nonlinear time. These vivid and evocative photographs are saturated with magical realism, cautionary tales, generational love, and challenging juxtapositions. The spaces in art and culture where Native Americans have been erased, are herein reclaimed.

“For Native American communities, it is a way to remind ourselves that these stories are still around.” - Cara Romero.

## Biography

Romero lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, and is currently featured in *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*, organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art (June 2–August 18) which is presently on view at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville. She has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including ribbons at the Santa Fe Indian Market and Heard Indian Art Market, and the “Visions for the Future” award from the Native American Rights Fund. Romero’s work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Paris Vogue*, and *The National Geographic*, amongst others. Her work can be found in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum, Palm Springs Art Museum, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, The Peabody Essex Museum, and numerous others.

For further information or press photos please contact Bockley Gallery.

image: *Jackrabbit & Cottontail*, archival pigment print