



# Marked Identity

Billy, Eliza, Natalie, Glorie

Modern ways of identifying outside of race and ethnicity are often marked by whiteness, but nonwhite artists of the Southwest are reclaiming and reshaping what it means to be everything from punk to queer. In *Marked Identity*, identities that have been seen as white are decolonized and marginalized people of the Southwest are afforded expansiveness in expression.

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## Curated BY

Glorie Romero Elvir  
Natalie Besselaar  
Eliza Strong  
Billy Hutchison

## GREGG DEAL



Deal is a Member of the Pyramid Lake Paiutu Tribe. He establishes his Native and Punk identity through his art. This exhibition will show his series titled "The Others", where comic books from the 40s and 50s are reappropriated to show the Native Punk perspective.

## VIRGIL ORTIZ



Ortiz is a member of the Cochiti community. He specializes in pottery and aims to capture modern identities and ideas with his art. He calls himself a "revivalist" because of the way he mirrors his ancestors with the message behind his pottery pieces.

## MILES TOKUNOW



Tokunow grew up in Echo Park, CA. He decolonizes the outdoors with his Audio walkthrough and films titled *Stages of Tectonic Blackness*. He depicts nature as a safe haven for Black bodies to rest within. He directly contrasts the colonizer idea that land is there for one to own, not for everyone to enjoy.

# Our Exhibit





# **Collaborative Process**



# **MILES TOKUNOW AND NIKESHA BREEZE**



# Curatorial Labels

## Stages of Tectonic Blackness

Tokunow depicts Black joy, rest, and expression in the outdoors, which has often been gatekept by white communities. He brings to our awareness a deep connection with nature which allows Black people to exist beyond the exhausting resistance they are often defined by by dominant groups.

## Tectonic Blackness Audio Walk

Notice how the narration works with the background noise. Tokunow intentionally combines powerful words with the serene sounds of nature to assert his place in the outdoors without conforming to typical ideas of outdoorsiness.



# VIRGIL ORTIZ

**Virgil Ortiz**  
American, born 1969  
2016  
**Translator Time-Shift**  
Sculpture



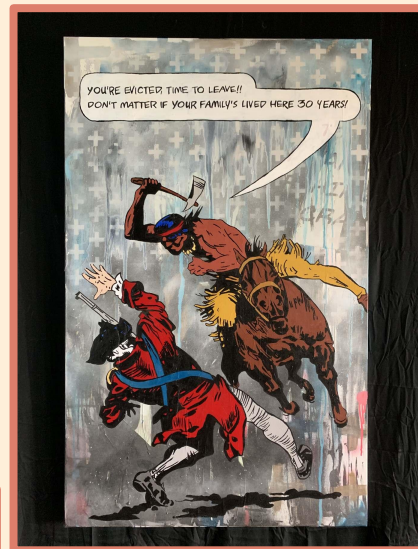
The strength and resistance portrayed in the Translator correlates to the pain the Indigenous people went through during the Pueblo Revolt. Ortiz's connection between the central focus on white perspectives and Indigenous traditions is represented through the Translator's androgynous identity. Notice how this androgynous figure portrays resistance to the dominant heterosexual society. The gender queer translator has a significant role in being an active character while also narrating the story of the Pueblo Revolt. The position of power within the translator serves to retain Pueblo people's tradition of storytelling that will play a part in Pueblo history. The depiction of power with the Indigenous androgynous figure provides insight on how significant two-spirited beings have had since the past.

**Virgil Ortiz**  
American, born 1969  
2017  
**AlterNATIVE**  
Clay



The depiction of queer identities promotes the representation of voices being heard and the recognition of inclusivity to all genders having equality. Look at how the depiction of traditionally dressed Native women serves as a way for Ortiz to accurately represent the Native women, disregarding the stereotypical representations that reinforced sexism, homophobia, and racism. The power within the women acts as a way to continue the inclusion of all voices, enabling the Indigenous community to thrive.

# Gregg Deal



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide featuring brown contour lines on a light orange background, overlaid with a dashed orange grid.

# Curatorial Label Example

## **That's Progress (DOA)**

DOA is often referred to as one of the initial founders of punk rock. The Canadian band is known for utilizing lyrics that advocate for anti-racism and freedom of speech. In this scenario, the song is about gentrification. Deal has explicitly stated that gentrification is not the same as Indian Removal, but they do have intersecting language. He encourages the viewers to recognize that colonialism plays a huge role against redefining Indigenous futurism. Deal encourages dialogues to flourish regarding the power structure that has been created and how to combat the ideals that diminish Black and Brown lives.

The background features a light orange grid of dashed lines. On the left side, there are wavy, organic lines in shades of light blue and pink. On the right side, there are similar wavy lines in shades of pink and orange. The text "Thank you!" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Thank  
you!**