

Mateo Romero, Cochiti Pueblo, (b. 1966)

- B.F.A. cum laude from Dartmouth College (1989)
- M.F.A. in printmaking from the University of New Mexico (1995)
- Poster artist for the SWAIA Indian Market (2005)

Born and raised in Berkeley, California, and brought up in a highly artistic family, Mateo Romero is a painter who explores on canvas often-contentious topics affecting Native communities: urbanization, racial tensions, and tribal politics. Informed by his academic and cultural backgrounds, and inspired to affect change and pose thought-provoking questions, Romero blends Pueblo motifs with abstract expressionism in creating his “social landscapes.” His bold brush strokes and palette knife work evoke emotion, and reveal his love of thick, gestural paint, color, and line. Through his foregrounds and backgrounds, and protagonists – be they a Pueblo deer dancer, or a fighter jet overhead – Romero pushes and pulls at the tensions that exist between Native ideologies, identity, and history.