



David Naranjo

2018 NACF Mentor Artist Apprentice

David Naranjo is from the Pueblos of Kha'Po Ohwingeh (Santa Clara), Ohkay Owhingeh (San Juan), and K'uutiime (Cochiti). He reinterprets historic pottery in two dimensions, expressing cultural symbolism through hardline abstraction. A graduate from the Institute of American Indian Arts, his work merges contemporary Puebloan traditions with non-traditional materials and elements to create meaning and purpose in each composition. For David, symbols and iconography are not only for ornate decorative purposes, but are visual representations of the landscape, natural world, and, if used properly, for prayer.


"I find our way of life to be a form of poetry and seek to show understating and respect while making art as a form of prayer. In my work, I try to apply that same level of intimacy, understanding, and respect in order to create the beauty that radiates from my community of Santa Clara Pueblo."

Ahkon Póvi

(Desert Flower)

Featuring bold symmetric patterning of cloud, water, and floral motifs accentuated with linear stripping to portray rain, this piece is first and foremost a prayer for growth. I see my work as visual prayers and my personal way of connecting to the divine.

For Tewa People, we perceive the spirit world to be a reflection of this world. My way of expressing this dual perception and conveying the point of contact between the physical and the spiritual is by portraying this mirror image in my work. If you look at *Ahkon Póvi* and divide the print equally vertically, it is a reflection of itself. It is my personal way of creating a mirror image in order to engage in prayer with that of the spiritual and the physical while utilizing Puebloan symbols and imagery.



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