

Cara Romero



Cara Romero is a dedicated photographer, cultural activist, wife and mother of Chemehuevi and German-Irish descent. She holds degrees in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Houston, Fine Art Photography from the Institute of American Indian Arts, and Photography Technology from Oklahoma State University. She is the former Executive Director of the Chemehuevi Cultural Center, served on the Chemehuevi Tribal Council, and is currently the Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Program at Santa Fe's Bioneers – a nonprofit dedicated to social change. Romero

is passionate about indigenous cultural studies, the conservation of cultural resources, the preservation of undeveloped landscapes and sacred sites, and is dedicated to her photographic practice. In October she received first place at the Heard Indian Market for her piece *Wakeah* and this month her photographs are on display at the Rainmaker Gallery in Bristol, UK.

Romero's strength is as a contemporary visual storyteller, rewriting the ideas of Indian identity, battling cultural misappropriation, and confronting stereotypes, all while preserving tradition and maintaining cultural sensitivity. Her challenging and sometimes whimsical large-scale photographs strike a compelling balance between her experience in film, digital, fine art, journalism, editorial portraiture, and commercial photography. They reflect her Chemehuevi identity, her passion for editorial photography, and a decade of photo documentary work in Indian Country. Romero explores current events and issues in Indian Country ranging from environmental impact on indigenous communities to the portrayal of indigenous women in popular culture. Her most recent body of work is a series of underwater works depicting the fragility of life, spiritual cleansing, and environmental destruction.

