



Jagg (left) Gage (right)

Virgil Ortiz, United States, 1969

Jagg, 2020–21, Clay, pigments and Gage, 2020–21, Clay, pigments

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Excerpt from Label Copy

Multidisciplinary artist Virgil Ortiz draws upon Pueblo history to create futuristic worlds where Indigenous people continue their fight against intruders onto their lands so that their people can continue to thrive and preserve and protect their ways of life. This is a part of Ortiz's 1680/2180 series. In 1680 Pueblo communities across the Southwest banded together to successfully execute the largest uprising in North American history. After decades of a Spanish regime of brutal violence, enforced servitude, and a ban on all traditional religious practices, Pueblo communities successfully revolted against colonizers and settlers. This uprising, under the leadership of Po'Pay allowed Pueblos to remain liberated for 12 years. In 1682, they signed a peace agreement with the Spanish Crown.

Each character Ortiz creates lives in the year 2180, a part of Pueblo understandings of the cyclical nature of time and space. The two ceramic figures are Gage and Jagg, pilots of the Survivorship Armada, who are transported to the earth's realm to aid Po'Pay in a revolt, and to preserve and protect their culture, language, and traditions from extinction. Gage and Jagg are hero twins. Ortiz creates Gage and Jagg in the traditional manner of pottery making of Cochiti Pueblo that has been used for millennia. He hand coils the figures, sculpting each into smooth and curved forms. He then fires the clay in an outdoor fire pit. Once dry, Ortiz uses local roots as the source for the black paint found in the figures' body stripes and faces.

1. Spend a moment observing Jagg and Gage. If you are in person at Mia, circulate around the vitrine, viewing them from all angles. What words come to mind as you look at them? How would you describe their expressions? Their poses or movements?
2. We know from the label that Ortiz envisions these as figures from the future, hero twins. How do we know they are twins? And how has Ortiz communicated the concept of "heroes" visually?
3. Ortiz is tapping into Indigenous Futurism in his work. If you are able to be at Mia, look around to see the diversity in his work in the Convergence exhibition. If you are not able to go to Mia, look for more of his work online. How do Jagg and Gage relate to the other art on display? How do they relate to historic Pueblo ceramics? (Hint: Check out Parska/Shada to see other Pueblo pottery) (To learn more on Indigenous Futurism, check out this article: [Indigenous Futurism Ushers in New Perspectives of Past, Present and Future](#))