

Allegra Oxborough and Grant Cutler

Brooklyn, NY

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We are an artist couple living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Allegra is a filmmaker working at the intersection of documentary and fiction, often examining the hidden realities of artishood and creativity. Grant is a sound-artist with a robust field recording practice and often works across film, performance, and installation - always incorporating natural soundscapes. We collaborate often, aiming to make work that highlights and challenges the relationship between culture and nature. Sometimes this work takes shape as films about the restorative potential of listening in our modern world, or media-installations concerning the spiritual consequences of environmental dissolution.

In conversation or in memory, a day doesn't go by where we don't joyously return to the small cabin in the great basin. Montello offered us a much welcomed counterpoint to our overstimulated urban lives, surprising us with so many gifts that could only be offered through the uninterrupted silence of the sagebrush desert. We worked on field recording, photography, film editing, writing, and research; balanced with hiking, reading, cooking, and contemplating the clouds. The wildflowers and fragrant sage were the backdrop to a scene of rejuvenation

Grant Cutler: *Silence*, exhibition image, 2019,



Allegra Oxborough: film still from *Blue-Green Music*, 2023

and an immediate connection with the landscape.

As a filmmaker and sound artist, respectively, having the opportunity to spend unstructured time listening, watching, and making recordings in such pristine countryside was incredibly valuable to both our creative practices. The landscape guided our lenses and microphones effortlessly, as every angle and space was filled with unique beauty - the wind as it whirled through dense juniper branches, the shadow-play on the hillsides - the land is sensational in all aspects of the term. Accurately representing our experience through language might be difficult, but the influence on our creative spirits will be far reaching and affect our art for the duration of our lives.

Our relationship with the land, not only in Montello, but everywhere, has been regenerated, and with it a yearning to return to nature, in art and in life, at every opportunity.

For a recording by Grant Cutler please go to montellofoundation.org/audio.htm

Grant Cutler: film still from *Wind Poem*, 2023

