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The Montello Residency is placed in a breathtaking environment, truly off the grid and imbedded in the high desert surrounded by snow-capped mountains in an ever-changing vast landscape. The residency is an idyllic setting for an artist to truly connect with the land and environment for any creative research, solitude and studio production.

I spent my residency exploring the landscape, its open plains, deep ravines and wild rivers. The weather changed dramatically daily from hot and sunny, to cold and snowy, to hailstorms and downpours, all enhancing the dynamics of the day to day

Broken Landscape, (detail), 2010, an 80 ft sculpture depicting the US/Mexico border fence, wood, plywood, foam, plastic, paint, branches, dirt, and other natural materials, 80 ft x 2.5 ft x 7 ft



Nomadic Landscape, 2012, wooden crate, acrylic paint, dirt and other natural materials from the Gobi desert, photographed in the Gobi Desert, 24 in x 13 in x 15 in

interactions with the elements. I spent focused time with my journal on long walks and studio time drawing and in preparation for upcoming exhibitions. I would suggest the setting of Montello for any artist that needs a strong connection to the land.

My landscape work explores the geopolitical landscape through sculpture, installation, and works on paper. The work addresses many underexposed issues, including climate change. My work in sculpture seeks to extend the dialogue with nature initiated by Land Art in the 1960s. In my work, I reach back the traditional role of artist-explorer, while framing my work for contemporary times using the landscape as a social signifier. Being in close proximity to and exploring Holt and Smithson's work during the residency was incredibly enriching.

My work also formally draws from the historical references of the landscape painting tradition and its sublime beauty; however, it is further interested in contemporary societies' underlying ecological and political conflicts that uniquely frame the memory of the current landscape. My work also seeks to underscore the dualities of the beautiful and devastating elements, both natural and man-made, which precipitate environmental and cultural changes in the landscape, transcending beyond nature and becoming symbolic of humankind's desire for control. The work's research also responds to the physical, historical and social situation of the site or landscape. I reveal what is already there to heighten the experience of place.