

Carlo Adinolfi

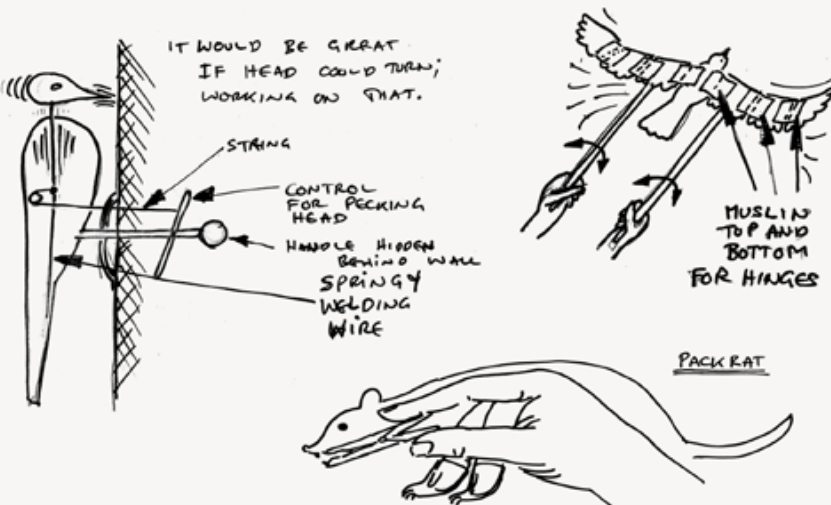
Hudson, NY

www.concretetempletheatre.com



I am a theatre artist. My work focuses on the individual's struggle for identity and society's need for cohesive community, incorporating drama, dance, puppetry, music and the visual arts. I applied for the Montello Foundation residency with the intention of reconnecting with two of my earliest artistic endeavors, visual art and dance. Prior to my residency, I broke my hip. So, I focused on drawing, painting and daydreaming about a new theatre project.

My residency was in early August, with most days reaching 100 degrees by noon; the first thing I found was that I needed to learn how to adapt my schedule to the climate. Within a few days, I was waking up at 6 am to eat breakfast and watch the wildlife. Then I'd go for a long walk or bike ride, while the sun was low in the sky. From the day I arrived, I began sketching the landscape, first in pencil and then watercolor. The landscape was either close-up or faraway; the scale of what I was



Artemisia tridentata I, 2016

seeing was hard for me to grasp. Then, I was so taken by the twisted forms of juniper trees. On walks, I discovered that the dead branches of sagebrush took very similar forms. I collected branches and began painting them in watercolor: still life studies, without any background. I wanted the branches to appear to be specimens, like insects or birds, being recorded for posterity, the painting preserving a fragile object in time. The branches kept shedding little pieces while I worked, continually decaying.

Before arriving in Montello, I had read about the unique fauna found in the Sagebrush Desert, but my research had not prepared me for the profound encounters with the animals! A packrat, who had taken up residence under the deck, greeted me on a daily basis. He was very cheeky, but through my encounters with him and other animals, the idea that we, humans, are just guest on this planet, really hit home. We are often intruders, as we seldom know how to live alongside the natural world. The packrat is of course going to be the star of the new show.