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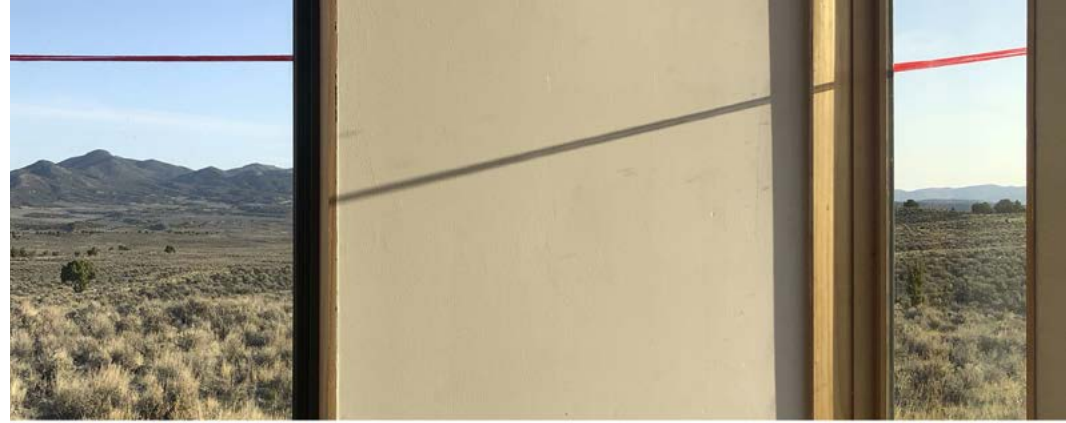
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My work takes form through a process responsive to time, place, experience, and circumstance. I arrived at Montello in awe and relief, as prepared as one can be for the unknown. The spare beauty and intentionality of the shelter, that I experienced as an island, offered another living system within the vastness of the interconnected sagebrush and juniper ocean - I was immediately conscious of my potential impact on both system and place.

Each morning, I would wake, lift my head, scan the length of my body to peer

detail of Depletion and Renewal, 2021, laser cut acrylic mirror and yarn, 20 ft x 20 ft x 1 in



six-part measure for delineating permeable boundaries, 2021

across the room and out the window. What is the desert's mood? I would pause, gauging temper. Then, I would leap, grab my sweater, and exit to spend the next moments – minutes? hours? – nearly encircling this island retreat. Back and forth, round and round, I inhaled the breath of the awakening desert, awaiting the light, the creatures, their song and bloom, the day.

At Montello, I entered an intense period of study to gain fluency and inflection of place. I spent mornings in the desert, afternoons in the studio, evenings in both, with permeable boundaries between in and out, here and there. I didn't want to sleep, didn't want to miss anything. I asked questions, listened for answers, responded in gestures, and experienced my work in deep transition.

Prompted by a residency reminder regarding water use, I began my journal and work in the studio each day with *You are in a desert*. These words have become a mantra for living with attention, assessing resources and need, consequences and impact, with a renewed call for inventiveness and generosity.

While I currently see a waterlogged, ivy-covered fence out my window, Ninemile Mountain is as vivid in my morning ritual now, as in May. Moving beyond this table and window, into a conscious practice of living in place, I carry a murmur of awakening - *you are in a desert*.

