

Everest Pipkin

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I am an artist from Bee Caves, TX, producing physical work as drawings, chapbooks, and zines, as well as digital material in software, bots, and games. My work follows landscape as complicated by digital space- it follows the internet in the landscape, whether as fiber-optic cabling, data center construction, or network infrastructure. I also study how physical space is digitized in projects like Google Street View, or satellite imagery and census data. By looking at archives, big data repositories, and other online resources for information, I aim to reposition these often-corporate spaces as intimate, gentle, ecological, and personal- demanding an internet with room for softness.

I had a remarkable time at Montello Foundation. The gift of relative isolation in the landscape cannot be understated - it was remarkable to begin each day with reflection on place or self, rather than an immediate reaction to the news of the wider world.

More broadly, however, I began to feel connected to this world in more abstract ways than the one afforded by the portal of my phone or computer. I knew that several acquaintances and friends had been through the residency before, and in some small way we were sharing this space over time. The quiet comfort of knowing that this kettle or that table were used by a friend once, a while ago, in the pursuit of their work is a strangely comforting feeling that is unique to a residency like this.

Much of my work while at Montello reflected this emotion, as I primarily worked on a poetically focused table-top roleplaying game called 'The Ground Itself', which looks at the practice of world-building spaces in conversation with friends, over very long periods of time.

I also continued a series of drawings called 'Hallucinating the Cloud', in which I look at places in the landscape where network infrastructure (cable lines, data centers, etc) meet the physical namesake they are named for. These drawings see these architectures of connectivity dissolving back into the ephemeral space of cloud and sky, becoming invisible in much the same way these network behemoths become invisible in a political landscape which seeks to hide them.

The level of focus and attention that Montello Foundation afforded me was truly remarkable, and over the last month I have caught myself drifting back to that



landscape regularly. It is unlike any other residency I have ever completed both in location and in feel, and has provided a fundamentally positive direction for my work - I am immensely grateful to have attended.