

Julianne Nash

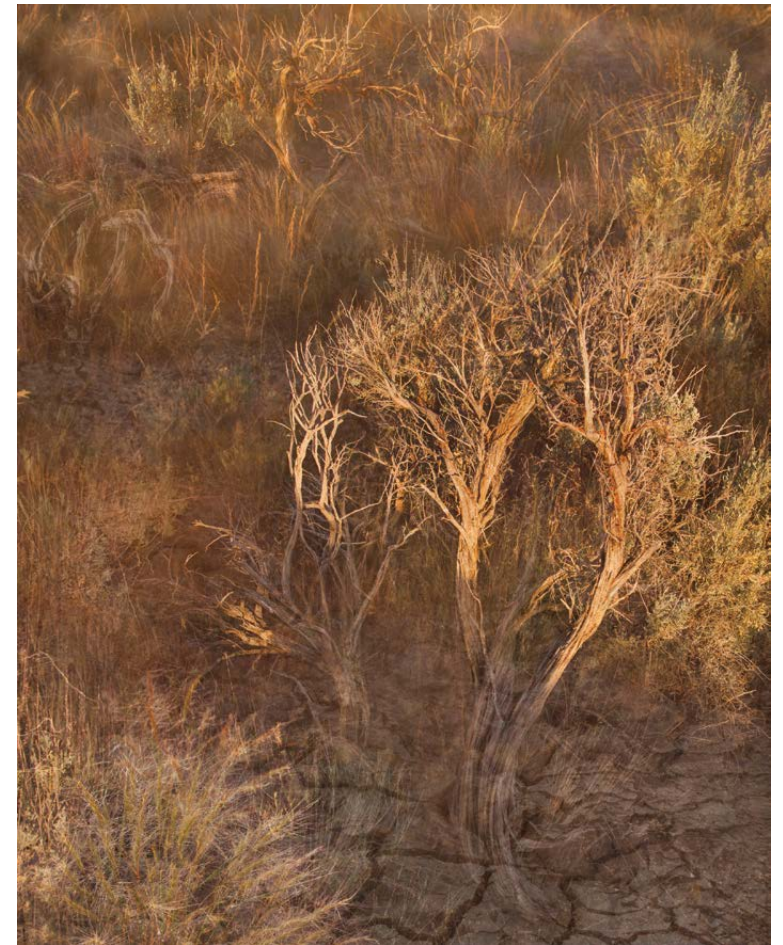
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I arrived at Montello from New York to an arid 102°, now recorded as the hottest day in June in the region. Temperature became the driving force of my days for the remainder of my stay, as I struggled with heat exhaustion; I would wake with the sun to walk in a different direction each morning until my camelback ran dry, returning to the cabin to work on my computer for the bulk of the day, having a siesta during the hottest part of the day, ending my evenings meditating in the studio, watching the sunset and waiting for the stars to appear. I have been longing for any semblance of peace similar to what I experienced in the basin for those two weeks. The solitude transforms you, forcing you to confront whatever is popping up emotionally without the daily distractions of our modern world.

Juniper and Sagebrush (22 Images), archival pigment print, 40 x 57 in , 2024



Artemisia Tridentata No. 1, Triptych, archival pigment prints, each 40 x 50 in

I spent my first few days at Montello furiously reading through as many books in the residency library as possible, trying to learn as much as I possibly could about the confounding landscape surrounding me. All the eyes could see was sagebrush, grasses and juniper. A landscape deeply susceptible to subtle changes, as the three species compete for space and resources. I was fascinated to learn how profoundly adaptable they all are. Junipers in particular can survive fire, flood, drought — the wood of which never decomposes. They twist and turn on a cellular level as they adapt to hardship. I can relate.

All of my photographic collages content with the enmeshment of personal and environmental grief reflected on the landscape. Often inspired by places within the landscape that evoke an unknown sadness, fear or discomfort, my work explores the complex relationship between personal, cultural and natural histories visible within our ever-changing landscape. Grappling with the conventions of vanitas and isolation, images are combined to create photographs that are in a constant state of evolution — akin to the ecosystems I seek to memorialize. Growth, decay, permutation and rebirth are inextricably linked in all of my work.