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I was awarded a residency at the Montello Foundation in June 2021. My time spent in the Nevada high desert with my dog Daisy was a profound experience that I will carry with me forever.

The solitude one experiences at the Montello Foundation is a gift that is rarely obtainable in artistic residencies. For me, the gift of solitude allowed the measurement of time to become obtainable. I was able to simultaneously reflect upon the past, be in the present and imagine the future. My muse was the desert wind.

I became obsessed with the wind. For hours I would stare out of my studio glass doors, watching the choreographed ballets of the wind's movements - sage bushes dancing like ancient tribal rituals, desert sand slamming against my windows and twirling in the sky, it was as if the winds were throwing its arid dry pigments into the mix. The final collaborator was the sounds of the wind, an arrangement of musical notes that completed the performance - haunting and expressionistic.

I was determined to capture the essence of the wind in my drawings. The only music I listened to was that of the wind - a symphony orchestra that was vibrant and pure. This is what I drew.



Wind I, Graphite, Charcoal, Pastel on Paper, 22 in X 30 in, 2021

What I will carry away from the Montello Foundation to my studio practice in down town Los Angeles is patience and a trust in the artistic process. I knew before coming to the residency that I wanted my experience there to unfold what I would create, so I had no preconceived idea of what I would make. It took some days for the winds to speak to me but they eventually did.