

Kevin Cooley

Los Angeles, CA

www.kevincooley.net



I work with video, photography, sculpture, and installation, to create platforms through which to observe experimental and performative gestures meant to decipher our complex, ever-evolving relationship to nature. My interest in the Montello Foundation Residency was not as a place to make a specific project, but the seclusion in nature seemed ideal for reflecting upon my practice without the usual pressures of making work for exhibition. I had planned to simply make coffee in the morning, and stare out into the landscape lost in contemplation about what my

the rig for light and variable



light and variable test, 2017

next big project could be. As soon as I arrived, however, I was enamored by the location, the light, and most of all the wind. I tried hard to keep to this stated regimen, spending my mornings reading from the foundation's carefully curated library, but as soon as the wind started to blow around noon, my attention was displaced by Montello's special location. I constructed a jury-rigged apparatus consisting of a video camera and a powerful flashlight that would pan across the epic stage brush in response to the shifting currents. This yielded a video I called 'light and variable' which, after about a week, I decided was a failure. Yet, I continued to work with the flashlight, creating a series of photographs from other locations long after I left the residency.

Reflecting upon my time at Montello four months later, I recognize that I'm out of tune with the more whimsical aspects of my practice, and my experience at the residency highlighted the difficulty I've found in tapping into it on a regular basis. Ultimately, I believe it helped me find a way to reconnect with my inspiration to become an artist in the first place.