

Nathaniel Ober

Big Sur, CA

nathanielober.com



For the past five years, I have lived in many remote off-grid situations. I spend a lot of time alone in the wilderness and alone in general, but in all of my endeavors I've never been this isolated from society. I had never spent this much uninterrupted time with myself. It was awe inspiring, completely secluded in such a vast landscape. I immediately became overwhelmed with giddy joy. The only sign of humanity was the road that led me to the Montello Foundation.

My days were filled with morning hikes, preparing meals and lots of silence with plenty of room to think. I found myself at times just sitting in the studio looking out onto the immense landscape, sometimes thinking deep thoughts, sometimes



without a thought at all. After meditation and many cups of green tea, I realized that the artwork I was staring at was far more important, far more beautiful and poignant than anything I would ever produce. In a sense, just being in the studio, looking out upon the valleys and mountains, I realized that my work was already done just by simply being there.

In my work, I explore the natural world through sound. I work with data from astrophysics for sonification purposes as well as natural forces such as light, wind, water and trees. I aim to create works that are not just influenced by the environment, but physically rely upon an intimate collaboration with the elements. With my time at the Montello Foundation, I continued to develop an ongoing series of aeolian harps. The harps are played by the wind and set in remote locations. Each one has a sound hole that doubles as an entrance for a bird so that one day they may house a new family of local fauna.

Does it make a sound when no one is around? Only the birds can say.