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This untouched spot on the earth is remarkably isolated, more than 20 miles from the little town of Montello, NV. No phone signal, no wifi, no distant lights from other humans, no other houses. I was astounded to discover a lush and verdant “desert,” after a record high rainfall over the spring. There were wildflowers everywhere, and folks in town reported seeing species in bloom that they had never seen before.

While I was in Montello, I wandered the valleys and ridges and picked flowers. I made lush bouquets and was delighted to discover just how many colors of Indian Paintbrush there are.

They bloom fuschia, cherry, vermillion, scarlet, sunrise coral, bubblegum pink, pale apricot. Their leaves range from kelly green to plum violet, making an infinite number of combinations with the blossom colors.

I also painted the “Nine Mile Mountain Triptych,” an oil landscape on 3 large sheets of Fabriano paper, 22” x 90” in total. The mountain is the spiritual center



of the landscape, and the key landmark for finding my way back to the refuge of the house. Watching the pageantry of the clouds parading across the vast sky makes for endless hours of visual feasting, and the long format triptych was a good way to capture the infinite expanse.

Nine Mile Mountain Triptych, 2019, oil on paper, 22 in x 90 in

