

Rian Brown

Oberlin, OH

www.rianbrown.com



My latest work is a hand-painted animation process that deeply connects me to tiny micro-movements of time. My process involves taking a short film sequence and printing out each frame onto paper and then painting each of the 450 frames. The process is very slow and meditative – but allows me to become deeply connected to the smallest changes, the tiniest gestures of movement. At Montello, I could spread these paintings out all over the wooden floor and paint for hours, witnessing the movement of light cast by the sun across the room. I felt like I was inside of a natural clock- working on my time-based images while suspended in a physical sundial marking the move-



ment of the planet around the sun. I was inspired by this and made a daily time-lapse film of the studio and the light passing from day to night.

Working in total isolation, surrounded by sage, hawks, and charmed black-tailed jack-rabbits shifted my entire reality, metabolism, even the way I saw, felt and dreamt. It was at times scary, and even tedious, which for me are both doorways that force a deeper understanding of things. The long difficult dirt road over the mountain pass and into the ocean of sagebrush to arrive at the house tucked up on a ridge was an important part of the journey. It meant leaving completely the world of humans. And without people, cars, phones, noise and light pollution- it allowed me to go deeper into my inner life, as well as to begin to see and hear more clearly the present landscape. And no need for entertainment – the night sky out there is ecstasy. I will carry the Montello experience with me for a long time, and as I am sitting at my desk right now thinking about it, yearn to return.