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Though I've lived in New York City for over 20 years, I grew up in the high desert on the western edge of Nevada. The expanse of the Great Basin was a familiar one that I sought regularly as a kid. I needed that vastness to orient to my own gender and queerness outside the limitations of my language and culture, which did not have space for them. I came to associate the desert's expanse with an internal expansiveness, and felt my identity in visual terms. I came to know myself in relation to space, light and scale.

My creative practice is built on this sense of psychospacial orientation, and my continued curiosity about the interrelation of social identity and perceptual

not yet titled video projection still, 2024



not yet titled video still with acetate drawing, 2024

experience. If who we are and where we stand in the world inevitably determine how we see, then perhaps resonant perceptual experiences can also illuminate, empower, and ground identity. I hope for this.

I worked primarily on a video project at Montello, gathering footage that describes how the desert teaches me about proportion: the need for wilderness and wildness—as in non-human-made-ness—to properly contextualize the experience of existence. I projected my footage onto the outside studio wall at dusk, re-recording the piece in relationship to the landscape. I also created ink drawings on acetate from video stills, re-shot those drawings in landscape, and collaged them back into the video footage. This layering conveys a re-working and returning for emphasis, a repetition born out of investigation and necessity.

My residency at Montello deepened my relationship with the desert in ways I didn't expect. I knew I felt constituted by the expanse of the Great Basin, but mostly from a nostalgic, personal historical perspective. Re-encountering my adult self through this foundational relationship clarified the crucial stabilizing role that an intimacy with wilderness provides. As humans trying to understand how to take care of ourselves and our world, it's our best blueprint, our mirror and our map.