

## Sarah & Joshua McCarty

USA

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Trained in sculpture and installation, Sarah builds platforms for collective making, healing, and transformation. Joshua, with a background in the culinary arts and hermeneutics, creates work that asks questions of consumption and ritual. Siblings who rarely got along, we now collaborate to facilitate communal settings advancing deepened inhabitation, communication, and play. Our process begins in microcosm: mending our relationship offers first steps towards healing the world. Having inherited the ancestry of the colonizer and a vocabulary of love assuming possession, we re imagine frameworks for moving and making that instead honor listening - through our bodies, our environments, and each other.

As visitors in Montello, we questioned the inherent violence in our movements. *How*

*paths* (detail), set of eleven, single-species plant presses, 2016



*absorptions*, set of eleven papers encrusted by the individual pulps of *paths*, 2016

*is our physical presence displacing and what are our ideological assumptions erasing? How is the concept of "nature" presuming, blinding, and colonizing? Can gesture reconstruct the method and quantity of this violence? What emerged was an ecology - a relational logic of dwelling - built upon slowness and wandering. As we stepped through the desert, our focus was not on the points along the way, but the quality of the advances: curiosity, study, awe. This openness dismembered preconceived notions of each other and our surroundings. We made paper to map these discoveries - a production marked by violence. The process offered a means to celebrate and explore the multidimensional qualities of the plants themselves - evoked throughout the picking, boiling, pounding, cutting, and pressing - as they broke down and transformed.*

Our technique of engagement solidified into a collection of four components: *paths* and *absorptions* (pictured); *communion*, a multitudinous paper to break apart and burn as incense; and *bundles*, a collection of plants to vaporize in a pot. The textures and aromas of each piece invite a haptic breath meditation, illuminating vitality and community by bringing people into a shared corporeal atmosphere. Installed within the intimacy of the home, the context further incites discovery and collaboration through the interpersonal, sensorial experiences generated by the pedagogical unfolding of the plants - boiled, broken, burned. This gathering functions as a proposal for how we engage with each other and our environments by questioning the authorship of making. People, plants, and place become co-conspirators, writing a new vocabulary for loving.

*The event will take place Winter 2017 in Brooklyn, NY.*