

## Summer McCorkle

Brooklyn, NY

[www.summermccorkle.com](http://www.summermccorkle.com)

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My process for my work is to go to a place, whether it be natural or manmade, and make a visual response of images, sometimes accompanied by a narrative, that culminate in a single or multi-channel video installation or film. For my time at Montello Foundation, I came with a video piece I had already been working on, that is shot in both the Arctic Circle and Death Valley. It is about a woman wandering the desert in a post-apocalyptic future, who keeps experiencing visions of a place of ice and snow, two things she had never seen before because they stopped existing before she was born. Though I had a loose outline of the story and lots of footage, I was having trouble accessing the character's voice for the narrative. With its utter solitude and



being removed from all distraction, Montello Foundation provided the perfect place to explore this character's journey- I don't think I could've found a better place for channeling feelings about the emptiness and loneliness that one would feel after the collapse of everything they knew, than in an off the grid structure, far down a rutted road, deep in the solitude and quiet of the basin and range of Nevada. The deafening silence there really cracked open the piece for me, making me rethink the whole sound and narrative structure to the piece. Knowing that for two weeks, I would not receive one text, email or phone call that can so rudely interrupt when you are trying to read or work, was pure joy! I went in November so the super short and sometimes rainy grey days, freezing nights, and lack of companions (only two ravens and a chipmunk) were challenging on the psyche at times, but it just added another element to experiencing what being off the grid in a desert actually means. This residency is truly unique in that you are very remote and alone with Nature right outside your door. And *alone*, alone (ok full disclosure, Tony and Lupe did stop by and say hi but other than that..!). I can't say it was the easiest experience, exploring the mindset of a character who is experiencing the end of the world as she knows it, while being personally isolated from the world. However, I think it brought out something in the work that would not have been otherwise and also in myself. I can honestly say I felt a change in myself when I came back to New York- like I was stronger. I miss the vast landscape and the ever-changing sky and light. I miss sitting out on the deck on the days the sun shone, reading from the perfectly curated library and soaking up the rays like a snake to hold on to for the cold nights.

