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My stay at Montello was varied, unexpected, and beautiful in so many ways. When I arrived, the sky was smoky from wildfires. A few days of heavy rain and thunder followed. Then cloudy skies and cold wind, and then heat! The region smelled of dust and sagebrush. There was sandstone, mountains, and salt flats. I spotted migratory elk and also a silver mine.

One of the most lasting nature lessons I had at Montello happened at a friend's parcel of land. I was asked to move from certain areas to preserve the cryptobiotic soil. It gives a distinct crunch when stepped on. Most astoundingly, it typically forms over periods of 5,000 - 10,000 years. My wandering had ended thousands of years of nature's work. I was reminded of the mission of the Montello Foundation: nature is fragile, and we must protect it. In that moment, I understood why Stefan had chosen this place and why the word "special" appeared in so many of our email exchanges. Time and stewardship has shaped this region.

An Object for Measuring Distance - Gullane, UK, 2014



Untitled, 2015

My work lately has been durational. Colleagues have commended my projects that require years of cooperation. To learn of natural processes that take thousands of years with minimal disturbances caused me to rethink what a "long time" is within an art practice. I make artwork that concerns identity, and I'm infatuated with the societies people create. I often repeat an action in different locations and over long periods of time. This allows themes to emerge gradually and lets locale, subject, and time rise to the forefront of the project. Lately much of my work has investigated my identity as a first generation Korean-American woman and has taken the form of videos, performances, and installations.

As an artist living in a city, time can feel frantic. Will I make it from point A to point B in time? Do I have enough time to finish my art, residency application, or dinner? If the 10,000 year cryptobiotic soil could speak, I imagine it would say, "Relax, take your time and make something beautiful."