

Katie Miller

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I create site-specific and experiential installations often with a participatory element. My work provides a space for engagement, inviting a break in routine that challenges the way we look at and deal with objects or situations in our lives. I aim to create experiences that offer a moment for the viewer to pause, observe, contemplate, and engage through the body.

I was drawn to the untouched landscapes at Montello Foundation, the open expanses with natural silence because it offered time for isolation and reflection. While on the property, I focused on looking inward and outward. I spent hours writing and drawing about my responses to the landscape, as well as capturing texture, contrast, and subtle aspects of the world around me through the lens of my camera. I hiked



Within/Without, 2015 Photo: Alec Miller



through the landscape daily, listened closely to the subtle sounds and observed movement all around me. I created cyanotypes using the sun to capture dramatic light and shadow of found objects, as well as a way to transform my photographs.

The clouds and weather patterns were visible in all directions from the building, which increased my awareness of how weather can quickly and subtly change the landscape around me. I found myself spending time quietly observing these changes, like the shadow of a cloud moving across the ground or how the rain often evaporates as it falls. The writings, small works, and photographs I created at Montello are now being used as a reference and starting point for new works, exploring how light and shadow affect the way we experience and perceive the world.

Residencies play an influential role in my artistic growth, and Montello provided the opportunity for me to respond to a new environment and challenged the way I experience the world. Montello allowed me to deepen connections with nature and renewed my fascination for natural phenomenon. The residency has influenced me as an artist, by enlivening my interest in the sense of self as experienced through the body and the many levels of our relationship with our direct surroundings.