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Slow was the prevailing current. Driving from New Mexico to Nevada I experienced the wellspring of open breathable space sustained by our interior states. Long stretches of in between land framed by layered oyster-blue mountains reshaped over millennium by changes in weather. Awe and wonderment coursed through my body as I turned off the interstate onto the unpaved dusty road leading to Montello. I have driven down many country gravel roads but this was a different kind of road. A road where faith would be the victor.

I trusted the one way path oriented towards my next destination. This novel route, much like art and life required my complete attention, maneuverability, time,

Mountain Study In Five Parts, Acetate, Copic Marker, 8.5 x 11 in, 2023



*Object and Awareness,
Sage Brush, Native Perennial Grasses, Bimini Blue Crescent Matt Board, Dimensions Variable, 2023*

and patience. It appeared to be an invitation of sorts onto a slower reflective pathway. My creative practice is approached in the same way; with contemplation, appreciation, and reverence, I seek to capture poetic moments within the natural world through the lens of impermanence.

Object and awareness softly folded into my mind's eye while sitting in the car in front of the artist house watching the unique unfolding panorama. Playful shadows emerged from dancing sagebrush, perennial grasses, and the transitional wheat all in conversation. Sharp sounds materialized from the juniper groves and small birds in flight presented like distant twinkling stars. I sensed the anxious frantic energy of the wind and the waning urgency of night. My intuition was heightened, alone, living with the rhythmic intelligence of the land.

My time at the retreat was saturated with physical site based activity during the day whilst dusk induced a volcano of deep introspection. Montello presents one with slackening the pace of life. This window of opportunity and gift of immersion allowed me to respond to the world through both a meditative and reflective lens.

A conduit for transformation, I leave Montello with a stronger sense of self, my own inner resilience anchored in the pearl of presence, a flowering voice still remains.