

**Elizabeth Hénaff**  
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Elizabeth Hénaff and Seth Wenger are multimedia artists. Elizabeth works in microbiology, art/science intersection, fabrication, and installation. Seth's past work includes sound design, fabrication, moving image, installation and performance.

Our two previous collaborations were as part of Collective Scope. *Precipitate* (2023, Open Source Gallery, Brooklyn, NY) and *Channel* (2024, BioBAT Art Space,



Brooklyn, NY) were centered around the microscopic life that inhabits contaminated environments and include sculpture, live-growing contaminated sediment, large-scale photographic prints, projection design and timelapse footage.

We came to Montello with the goal of editing timelapse footage collected of live sludge growth during *Channel*: one image a minute taken over the course of 12 months.

What ended up happening is that we spent a lot of time observing the desert, and not much time in front of the computer. The timelapse footage concept we came with became a prompt to consider the sagebrush ocean at all of its scales. How can we pay attention to the very small (lichen growing on the sage trunks, soil crusts) or the very large (topographies and banks of clouds travelling overhead)? What requests attention to be slowed down, or sped up? How is it that closely engaging with scale so dramatically changes our ability to observe new things? One most spectacular observation was that the black desiccated moss mounds found underneath many of the juniper and sage turn myriad shades of bright green in just about five seconds after exposure to water!

Time in Montello was expansive. No cell phone distractions frees up time to read, cook, follow or escape the sun around the porch. The folks we met in nearby towns on the way in, or on our only excursion to the hot springs nearby, were kind and welcoming. What a pleasure to spend quiet time in this vast and compelling part of the country.