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My stay at the Montello Residency afforded me the time, space and solitude to contemplate the landscape and consider its history. I spent each day making video and still captures, editing during the heat of the day, and researching the history of the Great Basin in Nevada by reading numerous books from the Residency's library. I was off the grid for most of my time, which allowed for complete undistracted concentration.

I was first attracted to the Residency because it offered a counterpoint to my

Untitled (from the series *The Great Basin!*), 2022

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usual metropolitan experiences. I have made three short films since 2020 that are about urban civilization, so I wanted to try to work in an environment absent of humanity. By leaving the bustle of human civilization for a short time, I found a new perspective from which to make work.

The results of my initial explorations there are the start of a long-term investigation. *The Great Basin!* is a film, book and print project that addresses climate change, the severe drought in the Western United States, gun culture, the military's use of the basin and range of Nevada for atomic testing, cultural stereotypes, as well as my own experiences in this remote area. In the short film I am creating complex collages of my own imagery of the desert with appropriated short clips from Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, recent weather footage, as well as John Wayne's and other historic films, cartoons, and other cultural artifacts in order to speak to the place and its significance.

The book component of *The Great Basin!* project will reference Pocket Western Pulp Fiction Books from the 1940's and 1950's, appropriating the design and text of these books. The inside pages will collage stills and text from the film.

I am returning to Nevada to continue my work this winter. My time at Montello was life changing, life affirming, and has inspired me to push my boundaries as an artist.