

Ruben Olguin

Bernalillo, NM

rubenolguinarts.net



Montello truly is a desert rose, blooming inspiration and solace. This retreat was at an important time in my career, transitioning from an early-career to a mid-career artist. This retreat was to give me time that I don't usually have to really focus and develop a series or the premise of a series of work I would be utilizing moving forward. Arriving at Montello was quite splendid moving through the cliffs and mountains

Shrine, pottery, clay, branches, string, 30 x 19 x 20 in, 2025



through the grassland and to the retreat. This experience was important to leave all my requirements behind, disconnect from the internet, family, friends, and professional responsibilities and just focusing on Art. I made more progress on my next solo exhibition in 2 weeks than I had in the last 2 years. While there I collected a ton of images, video, 360 video, I brought my drone and did some landscape mapping which I will incorporate into a VR experience. I spent time collecting from the landscape and considering the implications of being an artist that harvests from nature. This inspired me to write a guide for artists who harvest nature, which I will publish in my next exhibition catalog. While there I made dozens of ceramics that I fired on site, created a series and new design of "seed pots". I also made a series of prints creating ink and pigment from the landscape. I felt like I was standing in the shadows of the artists, writers, musicians, and poets that came before me. I felt like I had an obligation to be productive and live up to their example. I am truly grateful for being given the opportunity to connect back with nature and integrate into my work and studies.