

Dear Committee Members,

My art integrates traditional art mediums such as sculpture and painting into the experience of place. A sites' natural environment, the structures (architecture) that we build, and our interaction with both are all materials to be sculpted to create deeper symbolic connection between community and place.

I approach my projects with the belief that art is not separate from its context and we as humans are not separate from our environments. This particular point is very exciting for me when thinking about creating a site-specific artwork for the Black Mountain Ranch Fire Station. Its community cherishes and identifies with the picturesque rugged and open landscape and the fire station is a symbol to the commitment to preserve both the land and the community. The context and content are interwoven in the most essential and elemental way.

I create art fueled by elemental interests: how we interact with nature, our drive to survive it, and identify with its beauty. At a base level it's a paradoxical relationship; we nurture it and it nurtures us, but it can also destroy us so we build structures for protection. I am so excited that this opportunity oozes with elemental content. I am especially excited to give form to what I feel is a majestic relationship between the fire station, community, and the beloved landscape of Black Mountain Ranch.

In arid and fire prone environments of Southern California, the fire stations are like the cathedrals of the community. The elemental symbolism of fire, the history of cattle ranching, and the new architecture of the fire station are ripe for artistic relations to be put into play to generate a deeply meaningful artwork for this place and community.

I am very excited to be given the opportunity to contribute an artistic dimension to this community and to develop the artwork in collaboration with the designing/construction phases of the Black Mountain Ranch Fire Station. A major part of my practice is to understand and collaborate with the design ideation of architecture and man-made environments. This "design phase" to me, feels elemental; like unearthing a divine intelligence or understanding ecosystems in nature in order to create and collaborate in an effective and meaningful way.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to muse on this exciting project. I feel and believe there is saturated creative potential if I am chosen to collaborate with the Black Mountain Ranch community, the fire station designers, and the natural landscape.

Thank you for your consideration,

