



Mountain Time Arts

A platform for impactful public art in the Rocky Mountain West

A vibrant pink sphere is the central focus, nestled among tall, thin grasses in a field. The background features a range of mountains under a sky with scattered white and grey clouds. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

Art born here.

Our work



Mountain Time Arts (MTA) drives change through the cultivation of **bold and engaging public art** projects and programs that explore the history, culture, and environment of *the Rocky Mountain West and its Sovereign Nations*. We are **committed to social and environmental justice**. We understand collaborative and inclusive inquiry as a means to generate new knowledge and work towards solutions for all. MTA exists thanks to the support of people like you.

2021



Peets Hill, Bozeman — LIGHTING OF THE TEEPEES :
ILLUMINATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY
Emigrant, Montana — STANDBY SNOW :
CHRONICLES OF HEATWAVE, CHAPTER TWO

2020



Sourdough Creek, Bozeman —
THE CREEK BETWEEN US (LIVE)
THE CREEK BETWEEN US (AUDIO TOUR)

2019



Story Mill, Bozeman — STANDBY SNOW :
CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE, CHAPTER ONE
Story Mill Park and MSU Bozeman —
INDIGENIZING COLONIZED SPACES

2018



Missouri Headwaters State Park, Montana —
CHERRY RIVER, WHERE THE RIVERS MIX
Gallatin and Paradise Valleys, Montana —
THE SYMPHONIC BODY/WATER
Bozeman, Montana — INDIGENOUS
KNOWLEDGES & SUSTAINABLE PASTS/FUTURES

2017



Kelly Ranch, Montana — GABRIEL CANAL
Dry Creek, Montana — WETLANDS
Bogert Park, Bozeman — SPRING THIRST
Main Street, Bozeman — UPSTREAM

2016



Story Mill, Bozeman — FLOW

● indigenous voice
● climate action
● sense of place

All photos by CQ Media unless otherwise noted. [Cover] *Lighting of the Teepees*. [Left] Production shot *Cherry River: Where the Rivers Mix* by Mary Ellen Strom and Elly Stormer Vadseth. [p. 4] *Morning Glory pool* by Alex Newby. [p. 8] *Lighting of the Teepees* by Jade Snell (*Apsáalooke/Crow*). [p. 12] Production shot *Standby Snow, Chapter One*, by Mary Ellen Strom.



To Yellowstone, with love

“The land created us. We belong to the land.”
— Ren Freeman, Eastern Shoshone

Our hearts go out to our many friends, community members, and partners in Gardiner, Livingston, Red Lodge, Yellowstone National Park, and everywhere in between, who are suffering from the aftermath of the devastating flooding caused by climate change.

There are several special landscapes within Yellowstone that we have been honored to become familiar with during research for our current project, *Yellowstone Revealed*. We are holding them in our thoughts during this time: Sand Point, Gull Point, Storm Point, Nez Perce Ford, Wapiti, Norris Geyser, Obsidian Cliff, and Sheep Eater Cliffs.

May the people, wildlife, and habitat connected with these places be safe from further disaster.

This historic flooding event further amplifies the need for immediate action to address climate change and issues of social injustice. *Mountain Time Arts stands in solidarity with all people affected by this and other results of a changing climate — and all those who tirelessly demand a better future from our leaders, corporations, and industries.*

In the pages ahead, we tell the stories of performances that have examined the exact issues we are facing and will continue to face as a nation and the world. We are determined to use art to inspire change, to motivate for action, and to always keep the conversation going.

— Mountain Time Arts



Yellowstone Revealed

YELLOWSTONE REVEALED is a series of projects based in Yellowstone National Park by an intertribal group of Indigenous artists and scholars. The public artworks are non-invasive, temporary, and designed to demonstrate the historic and continued presence of Indigenous people in the Yellowstone region.

Curated to coincide with and respond to Yellowstone National Park's 150th anniversary in 2022, *Yellowstone Revealed* seeks to put forward Indigenous truths and perspectives, providing a platform and long-overdue opportunity to envision and co-create the future of this venerable place.

Coming summers of 2022-2023.

See Bozeman Creek

Project One : *Revitalise/Relatives* by Ben Pease

SEE BOZEMAN CREEK is series of art projects in honor of Bozeman Creek. The idea was born from community-wide interest in highlighting and bringing to life the waterway that runs through the heart of the community. Using art as a catalyst for change, *See Bozeman Creek* seeks to bridge diverse cultures and perspectives through water, while emphasizing the importance of seeing and living sensitively with nature.

For the first artwork, MTA has commissioned multi-disciplinary artist Ben Pease, *Apsáalooke/Crow, Tsétséhéstâhese/Northern Cheyenne*, to create a mural of images and words digitally etched into glass panels to be installed as a frieze atop the railings of the pedestrian bridge leading to the entrance of Bozeman City Hall. Pease has named this work, *Revitalise/Relatives*.

“Revitalise/Relatives remembers and gives respect to a forgotten and neglected relative — Water.

We say that water has a life itself. It is its own living entity.

I work to not only inspire generations to see Water as it is now, but to consider what came before.”

— artist Ben Pease, *Apsáalooke/Crow, Tsétséhéstâhese/Northern Cheyenne*



Ben Pease creates sketches for *Revitalise/Relatives*.



“It brings back the history of our ancestors, when they were mobile and walked the prairie and made camps... It was all about survival. They worked together no matter what.”

— William F. Snell Jr., Director, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders/President, Pretty Shield Foundation

Lighting of the Teepees

Illuminating Indigenous Peoples' Day

LIGHTING OF THE TEEPEES honors contributions of American Indians to our community, economy, culture, and history.

Seven illuminated teepees were placed on the Peets Hill/Burke park bluff that overlooks Bozeman for ten days surrounding Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2021.

The teepees stood on the ancestral lands and traditional use

area of the Bitterroot Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Chippewa Cree, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Dakota, and other Indigenous nations of this region.

Lighting of the Teepees was a collaborative project with the Pretty Shield Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, and the City of Bozeman Parks Department.

Standby Snow

Chapter Two

"I felt especially impacted by the videos of Paradise Valley and the colonial narratives being re-written. Plus, I felt so lucky to hear songs in Crow. Such a special event!"

— 2021 Standby Snow attendee



Through video, music, and live performance, *STANDBY SNOW : CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE, CHAPTER TWO* offered perspectives on how to restore cultural histories and imagine ways to reverse recent devastation caused by drought and fire.

Beginning at dusk, audience members were led by their guide, Jupiter, through a string of performances set on natural and architectural stages, among trees and along irrigation ditches at West Creek Ranch in Emigrant, Montana in 2021.

Produced in dialogue with Native Studies scholars, a fire scientist, an environmental scientist, a climate data analyst, ranchers, and fire fighters from Southwestern Montana, *Standby Snow, Chapter Two* chronicled current regional climate realities and examined the cultural and economic complexities that shape restoration goals and practices.



the creek between us


In a socially-distanced, masked performance, *THE CREEK BETWEEN US* premiered along Sourdough Creek in Bozeman in 2020. The work welcomed audiences to witness individual relationships with the Creek through public performance art.

the creek between us explored how ideas of “the environment” in southwestern Montana have been constructed, disseminated, understood, and commodified

over time. By examining implicit and explicit biases in city parks and public outdoor spaces, *the creek between us* explored how different groups experience these spaces — offering new ways to imagine a better, more sustainable future for all.

the creek between us was produced with local residents and organizations including Earthtone Outside, Eagle Mount, and Queer Climbers Coalition.

the creek between us was a pilot project of SEE BOZEMAN CREEK, an ongoing collaborative effort to revitalize and restore Bozeman Creek while ensuring that environmental efforts include cultural concerns.



“The water is like our blood: flowing, keeping us moving, interacting with all living things. It cleanses us as we move through. It purifies our spirit. It heals our body. Clears our mind and strengthens our hearts, if we let it.”

— Dr. Shane Doyle, Apsáalooke/Crow



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Read More

Takes off like



e a rocket

Standby Snow

Chapter One

Through collaboration with scientists, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, Indigenous scholars, and artists, STANDBY SNOW : CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE, CHAPTER ONE exposed the effects of fire and drought, and focused on the resiliency of people and place.

During two outdoor, evening performances, community gathered under the vast Montana sky to witness video, architecture, music, and live performance that activated the Story Mill grain terminal, a location rife with historical narratives and environmental lessons. The shows chronicled a history of European colonial domination that caused a cultural and ecological crisis in the region.

"You say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes... If solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself."

— Greta Thunberg, Climate Activist

Cherry River

CHERRY RIVER, WHERE THE RIVERS MIX was a live music and art event at Missouri Headwaters State Park, using the flow of three rivers as a narrative structure and cultural bridge to explore the history and ecology of the site.

Northern Cree Singers from Alberta, Canada; the Montana State University Brass Ensemble; and Jamie Fox and the Fox Family Fiddlers, a Métis group from Fort Belknap, performed on drift boats floating toward the confluence of the Missouri River, the place Native peoples call *Where the Rivers Mix*.

The Cherry River's name change ceremony was central to the project. It recognizes the enduring nature of Indigenous history and knowledge on the Northern Plains, while venerating the ecology of running water and the plants and animals that make up the ecology of this treasured place.



Gabriel Canal

With a goal of understanding the ways culture has contributed to drought, GABRIEL CANAL examined the geographic features of Kelly Ranch in the Gallatin Valley, including irrigation canals, ditches, and natural springs and wetlands prior to settler contact.

Audiences were led down a mile-long trail through five scenes of music, dance, video, and mapping — culminating in a light

installation. The twelve guides included local ranchers, environmentalists, geologists, Native American students and scholars, and politicians.

The guides, all with personal perspectives on irrigation and water conservation, shared knowledge of water, a pre-contact buffalo jump, an Indigenous trail, and the legacies of early settlers.



"Often Native voices aren't present nor heard. Being part of this project alongside ranchers and farmers taught me they often feel left out of the conversation, too."

— Francesca Pine Rodriguez, *Apsáalooke/Crow, Tsistsistas/Northern Cheyenne*

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