



MOUNTAIN TIME ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 31, 2019

Mountain Time Arts presents:  
**STANDBY SNOW: CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE**

August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Story Mill Grain Terminal  
1270 L Street, Bozeman, Montana  
Performances begin at sundown

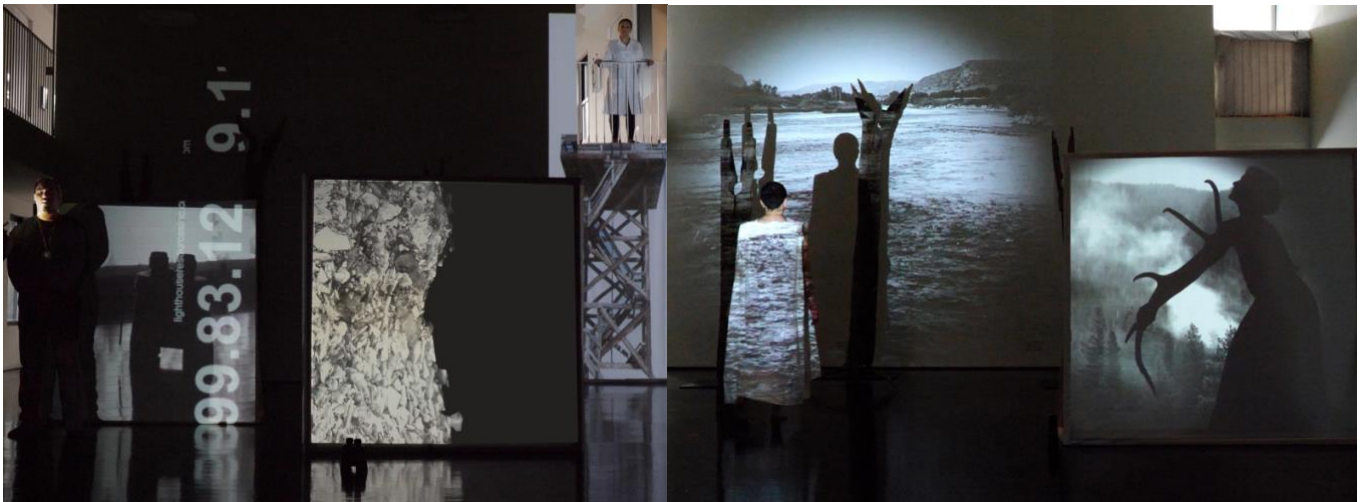


Photo: Work-in-progress scene of art and design team for MTA's upcoming project, **STANDBY SNOW: CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE** in residency at the Watermill Center, on Long Island, Spring 2019.

MOUNTAIN TIME ARTS (MTA) is excited to present **STANDBY SNOW: CHRONICLES OF A HEATWAVE**, Chapter One, a new place-based project premiering at Story Mill grain terminal in Bozeman, Montana on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This intertextual work brings together video, architecture, music, and live performance to activate this rich and complex location, rife with historical narratives and environmental lessons. **STANDBY SNOW** is being created by Ben Lloyd and Kelly Olinger of Comma-Q Architecture; Laine Rettmer, visual artist and opera director; MJ Williams, composer; Mary Ellen Strom, performance and video advisor; and Shane Doyle, Apsáalooke (Crow), writer and Native American Scholar.

The Story Mill grain terminal is located in a fertile valley with rich soil and a historic bounty of wildlife, including bison. Yet this location also holds the history of violent displacement of Indigenous peoples, rapid industrial and agricultural development, population growth, and the finitude of what was formerly believed to be an infinite supply of natural resources. By interrogating the site, the **STANDBY SNOW** will chronicle a history of European colonial domination that caused a cultural and ecological crisis in the region.

The method of research and production for STANDBY SNOW understands collaborative inquiry as a way to generate new knowledges to address Southwestern Montana's critical cultural and environmental concerns. This research-based project is being produced in dialogue with advisors from our region, including Native Studies Scholars, a fire scientist, an environmental scientist, a climate data analyst, ranchers, and politicians from Southwestern Montana. STANDBY SNOW chronicles current climate realities in Southwestern Montana and speculates about possible methods of environmental regeneration. The work will examine the cultural and economic complexities of human values that shape restoration goals and practices.

Over the past four years, MTA has worked collaboratively with scientists, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, Indigenous scholars, and artists to address critical social and environmental issues and to engage our diverse community with a series of unique multimedia performance events. STANDBY SNOW will focus on the devastating effects of fire and drought, and on the resiliency of people and place.



#### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Shane Doyle**, Crow tribal member from Crow Agency, MT is a researcher, writer, musician, and historian of Northern Plains Native Music. He received his doctorate in education from Montana State University and completed a post-doc at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Doyle's research subjects include water conservation, Clovis Culture, Seasonal Rounds of Northern Plains people, and Northern Plains Sign Language. With 30 years of experience as a singer of Northern Plains music and 20 years teaching, Doyle is an educational and cultural consultant.

**Ben Lloyd and Kelly Olinger**, colleagues at Comma-Q Architecture, Bozeman, MT. Through architectural practice, Lloyd and Olinger have gained extensive knowledge of Southwest Montana, its people, climate, and history. Using space, Lloyd and Olinger combine perspectives and enrich cultural experiences. Lloyd is President of Comma-Q Architecture. His firm has received three AIA MT awards, nine Bozeman Beautification awards, MMT Historic Preservation Awards, and LEED awards. Lloyd also directs, Comma-Q Media, through which media production captures perspectives and tells stories. Most recently, their work with Mountain Time Arts, Ann Carlson, and *The Symphonic Body/Water* mixed the community and performers under the big sky of Montana.

**Laine Rettmer** is a video artist and opera director. Her video work has been shown at AREA Gallery, Boston; The Clay Arts Center; the Museum of Fine Art, Boston (2017); the Boston Independent Film Festival; FPAC 2017; Manifesta, Germany; Yuan Art Museum, Beijing; Yve Yang Gallery, NYC; Perkins and Ping, NYC; and NADA NY. She has been the resident stage director for the New York-based company Loft Opera for the past four years. Rettmer provides stage direction for NY-based opera company, Rhymes with Opera's. Recent productions include "Rumpelstiltskin" and "The Impossible She." Rettmer also teaches at Rhode Island School of Design.

**Mary Ellen Strom** from Butte, MT, is an artist, curator, and writer. Her performance projects and video installations unearth submerged narratives within art, history, and cultural discourse. Her work has been exhibited in museums, on passenger trains, cattle ranches, rivers, mountain rock faces, and horse arenas. Awards include: International Fulbright Scholar Fellowship, Bogliasco Fellowship, Creative Capital, Artadia and MAP Fund. Exhibitions include: MoCA, LA; MoMA, NYC; ICA, Philadelphia; Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; MFA, Boston; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Wexner Center, Columbus, OH; Pompidou Centre-Metz, Paris; Satouchi Triennale, Japan; Hayward Gallery, London; Nagoya Museum of Fine Arts, Japan; and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne.

**MJ Williams** lives in Basin, MT. She is a composer, performer, music curator, and recording artist. In 2016, Williams was the recipient of the Montana Governor's Art Award. Since 2015 she has produced a concert series of experimental music titled "Sound Gallery" in 1+1=1 Gallery, Helena, MT, introducing Rocky Mountain audiences to non-traditional original music. For the last three years Williams has performed her original music compositions in Paris at Le Sept Lezard, a legendary jazz club, with Jobic LeMasson Trio and Joe Makhholm Quintet. This project resulted in the acclaimed 2018 CD, *Trance Atlantic*. In 2013, MJ composed the score for Strom's video installation "Mary" that was produced in Montana and premiered at Longhouse Projects Gallery in New York City.

**MOUNTAIN TIME ARTS** (MTA) is a nonprofit organization based in Bozeman, Montana that produces inventive public art projects that enliven our relationships to the history, culture, and environment of the Rocky Mountain West. MTA cultivates relationships among artists, scholars, and community members to conduct research and produce artworks about critical issues in Southwest Montana. MTA is committed to social and environmental justice. We understand collaborative and inclusive inquiry as a means to generate new knowledge and work toward solutions for all. MTA participants share perspectives and build a culture of engagement and transformation, leading to resilient communities. To learn more about Mountain Time Arts, visit: [mountaintimearts.org](http://mountaintimearts.org).

MTA is grateful for the support of STANDBY SNOW from The MAP Fund, the Montana Arts Council, the Poss Family Foundation, The Watermill Center for the Arts in Watermill, NY, and The Montana Artist Refuge in Basin, MT.

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