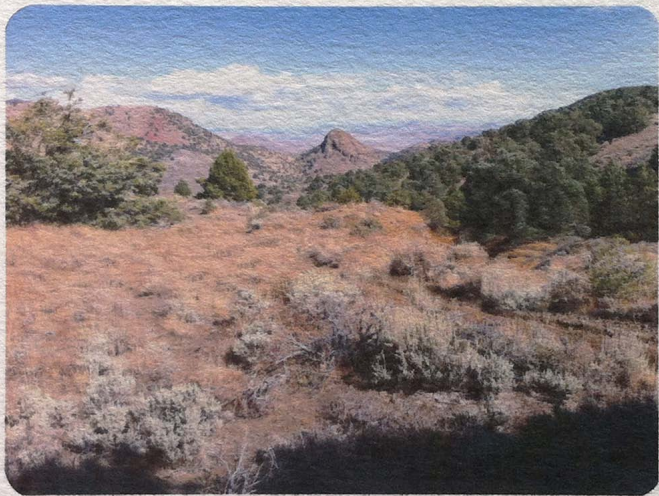
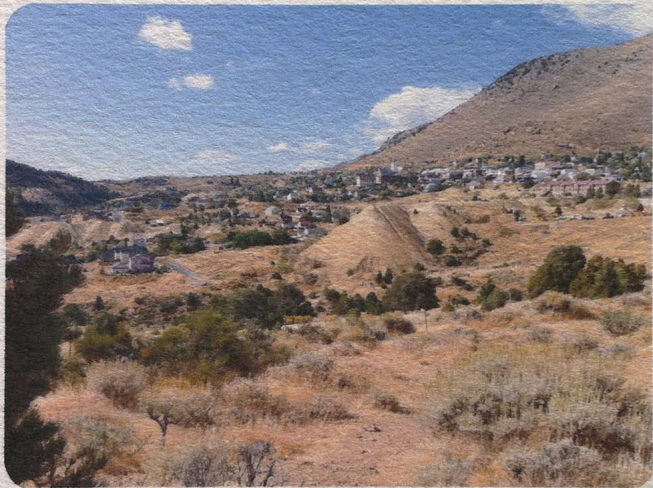
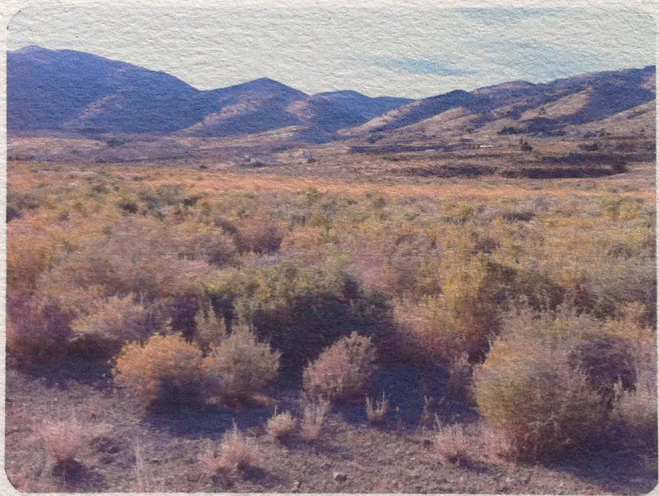
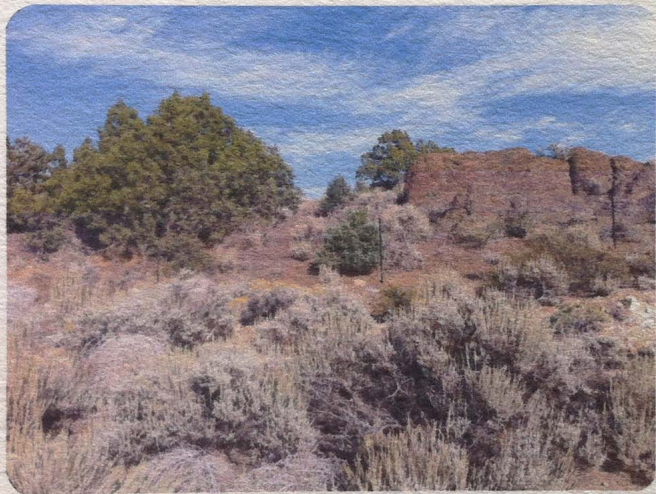


COMSTOCK



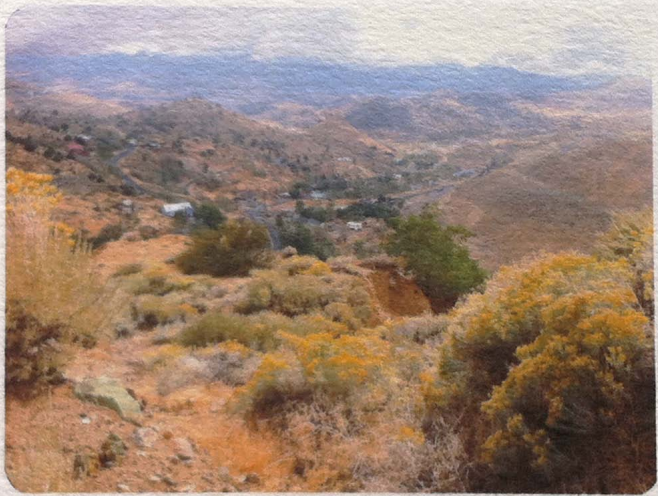




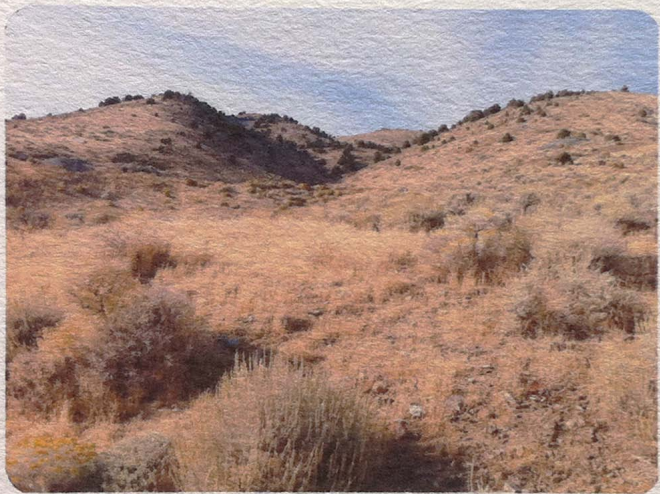


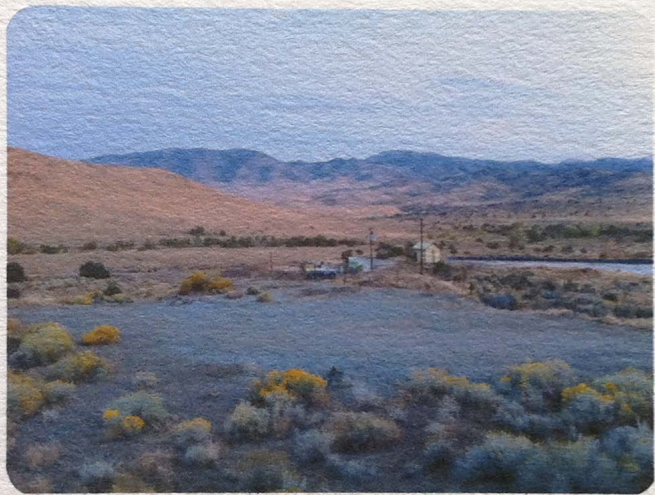








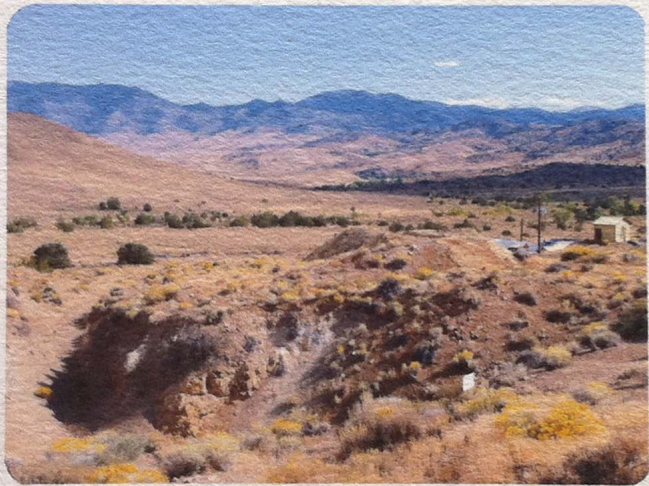


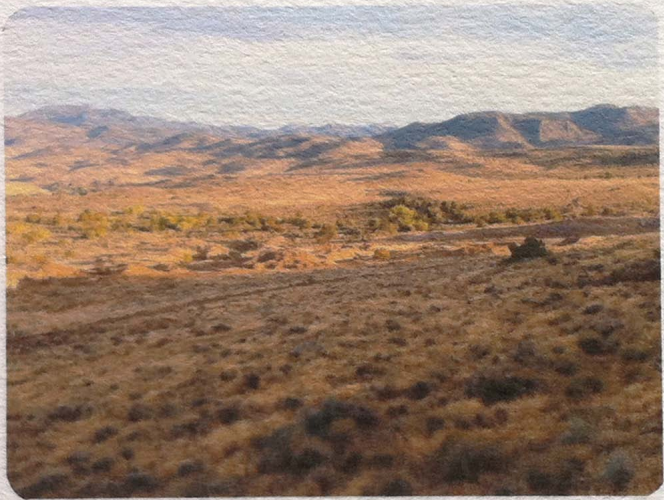






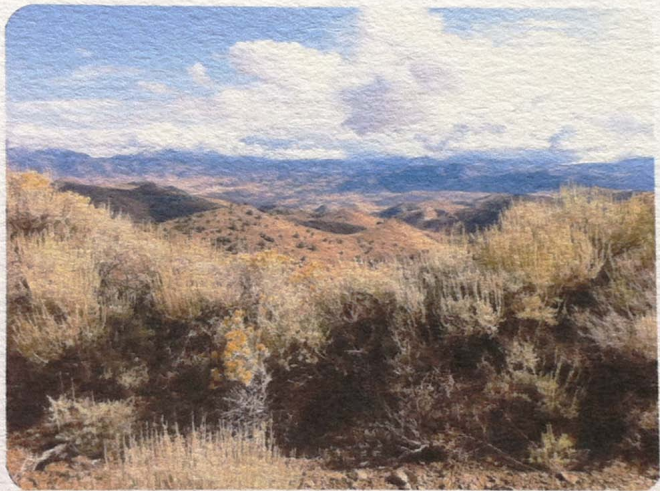


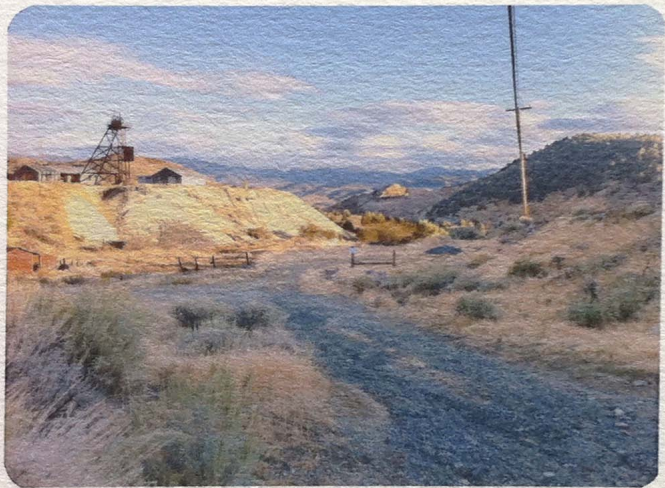


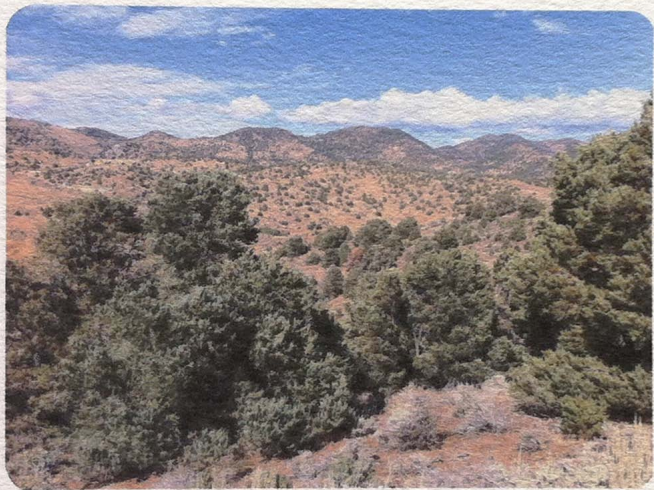


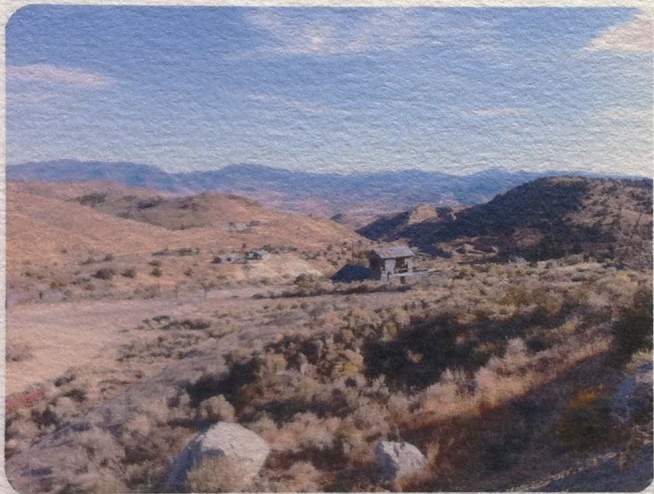


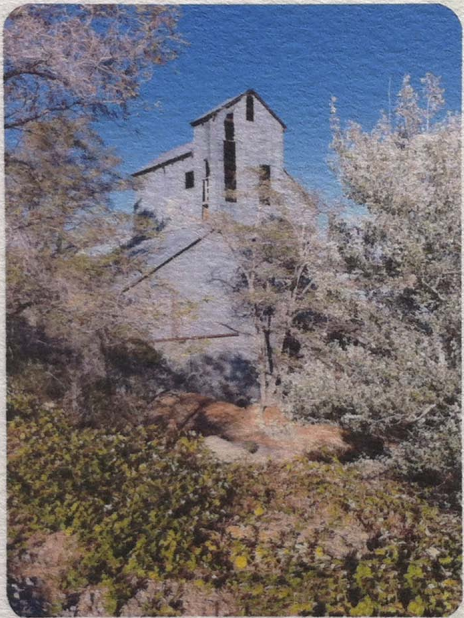


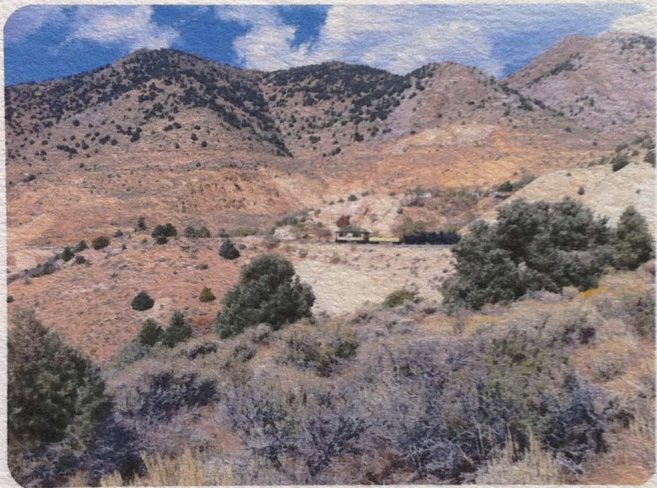


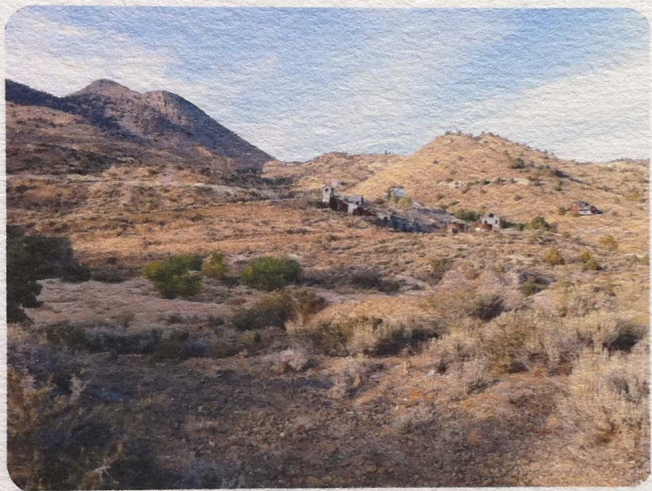


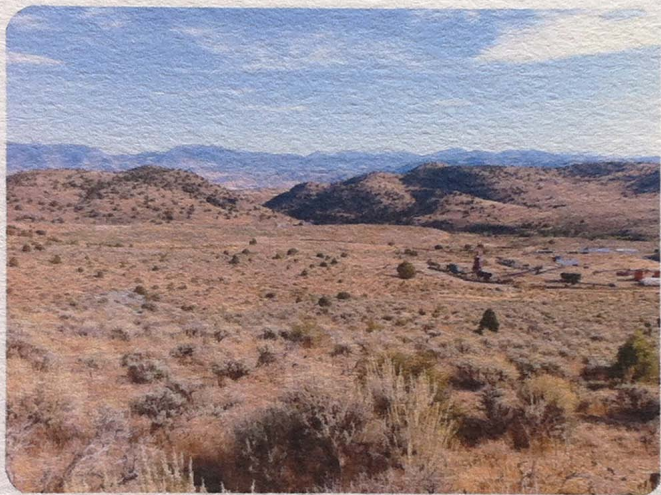


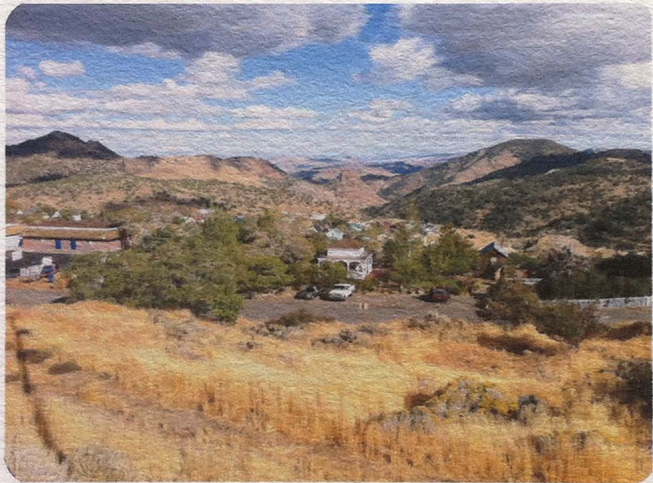


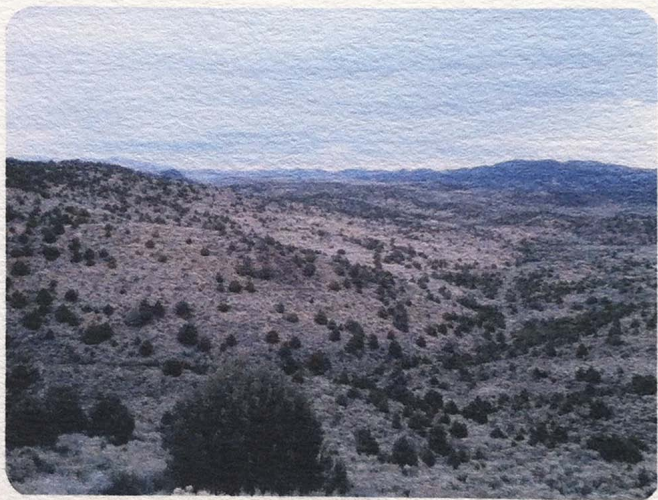






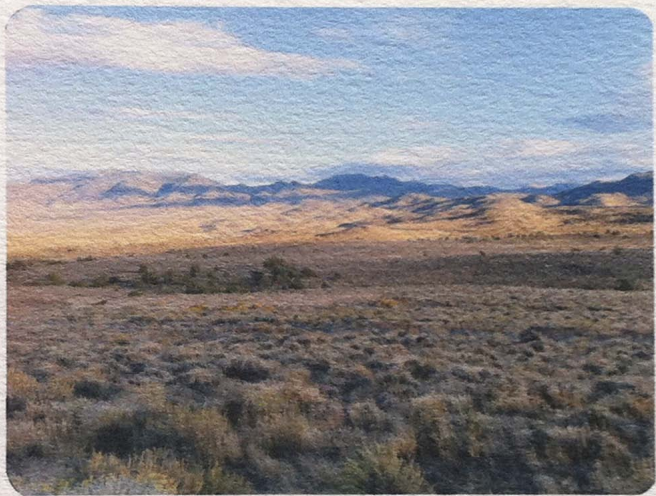


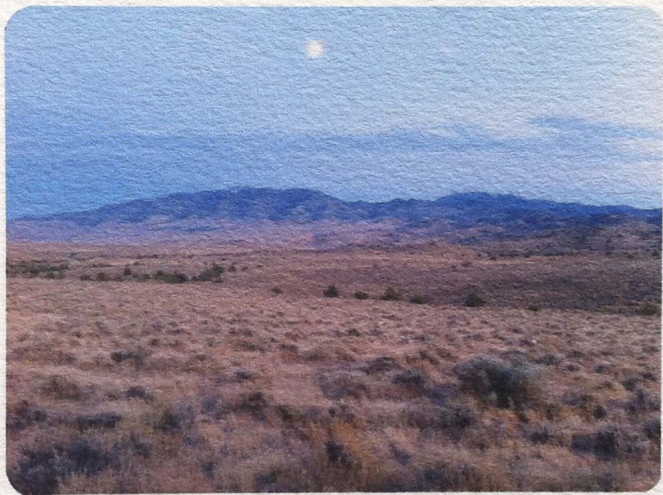


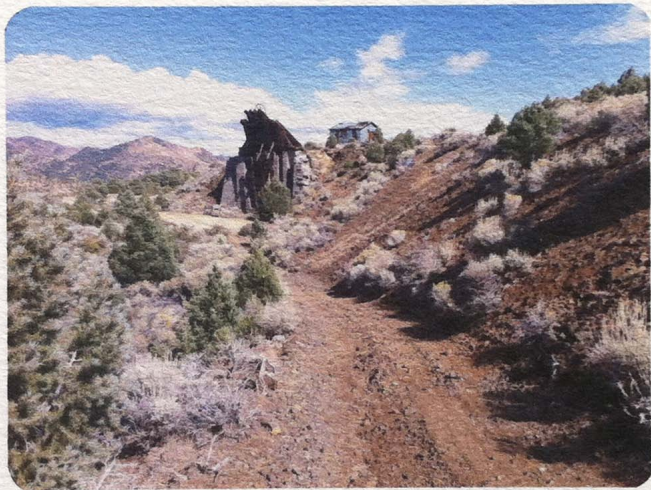


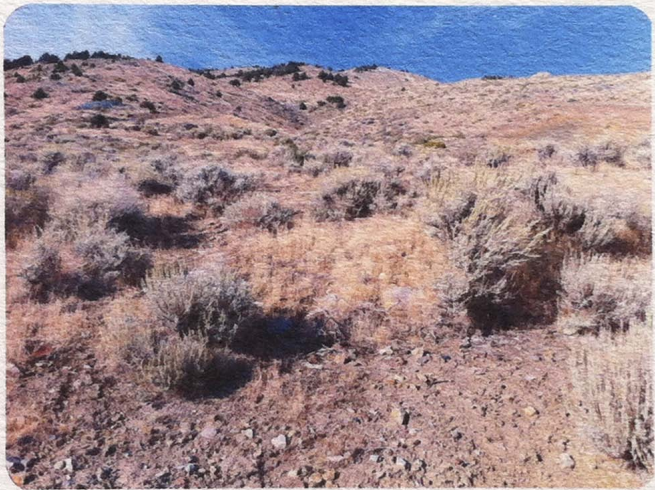


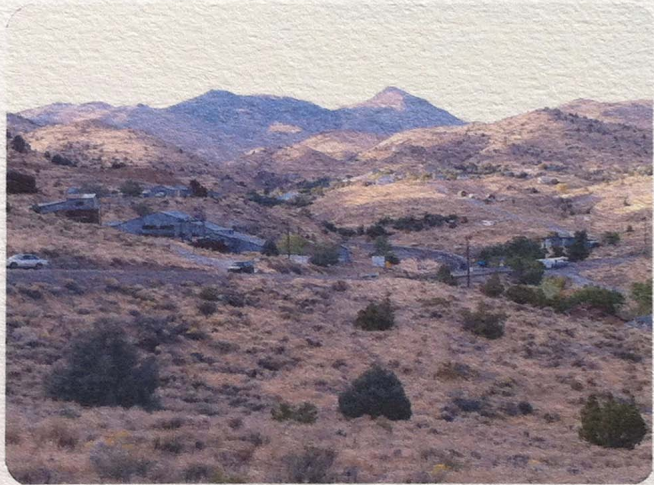


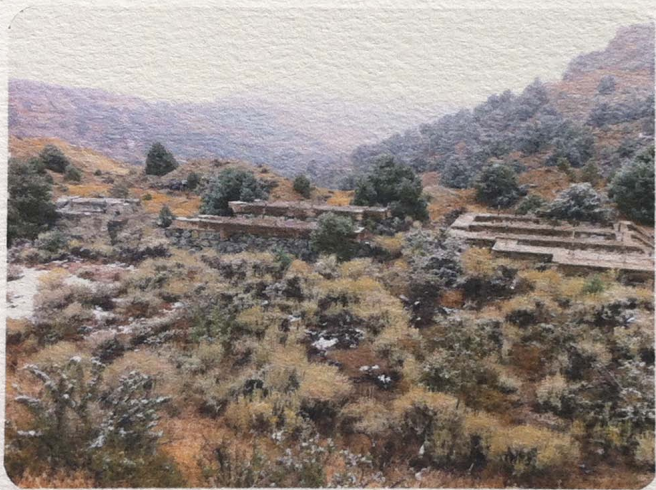


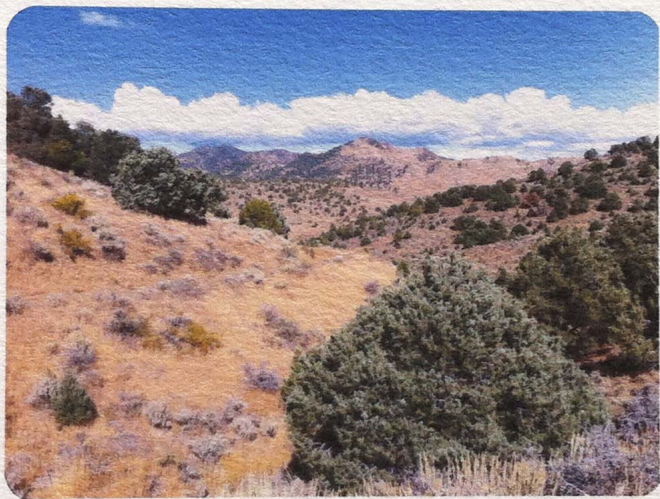




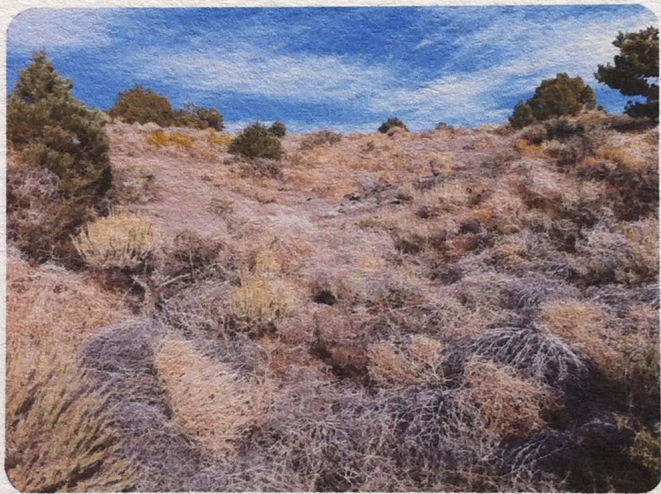






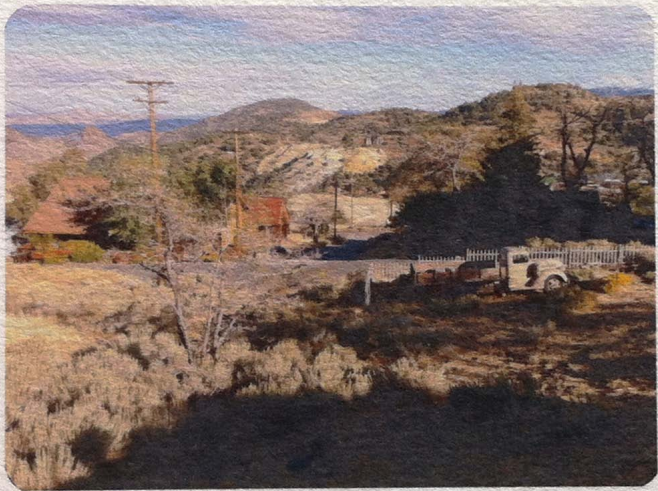


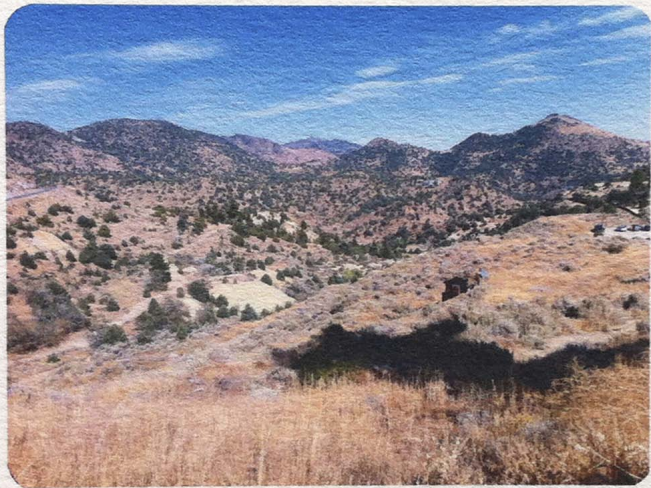


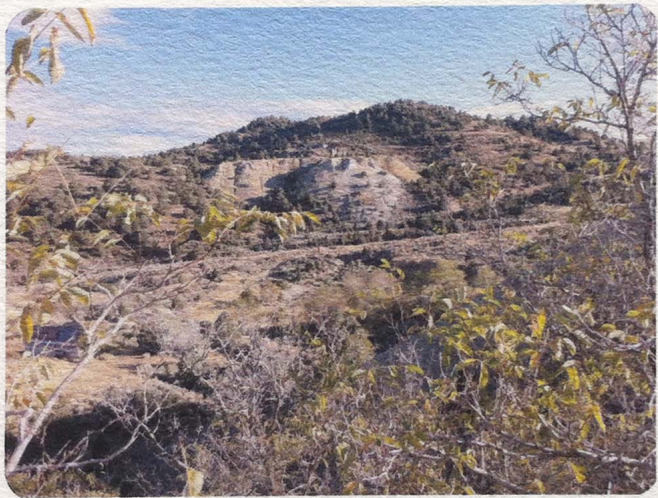




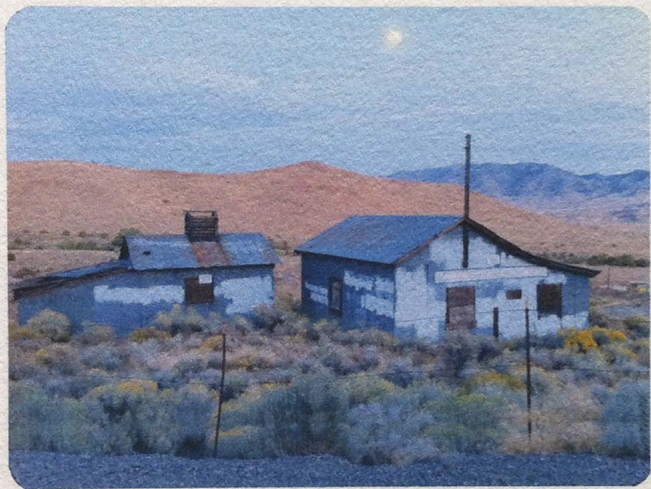














Comstock

The Comstock is a mountainous mining district in the desert southeast of Reno, Nevada that sits more than 6,000 feet above sea level. Following the 1857 discovery of gold in the district, miners soon realized that the gray mud on their tools contained silver assayed at a very high price for the time of \$2,000 per ton. The Comstock Lode was the first large silver deposit discovered in the United States, and its main town, Virginia City, became the site of the first industrial city in the western states. For a time it was the most important town between Denver and San Francisco, and investors in the Comstock silver mines became some of the wealthiest businessmen in America.

Today, Virginia City is the largest federally designated historical district in the country, and many of its mansions and stores have been maintained in pristine condition. At its peak in the 1870s, as many as 25,000 people lived and worked in the high desert town, and although gold mining is still active and expanding nearby, at present Virginia City residents number fewer than 900. Surrounding the town are weathered head frames and slowly eroding tailing piles, visible reminders of the miles-long tunnels that remain under the town.

The Comstock was traversed by French photographer Jean-Pierre Bonfort in late 2011. Photographing as always with his cellphone from roadsides, Bonfort captured the collision on the Comstock of modern life with detritus from the mining days, and how the enormity of the sagebrush flats and arid mountains continue to dominate human presence in the coldest and highest desert of North America.

William L. Fox

Director, Center for Art + Environment of Nevada Museum of Art, USA

These forty-six photographs
were shot from 5 to 11 october 2011
The set will be exhibited
at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada
from January 12 to May 5, 2013.
Five copies of this set were printed
by the photographer
in Grenoble, France in November 2012
on Canson paper using an inkjet printer.



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