



CHRISTOPHER WARREN | Artist Statement

The American West is exemplified by its larger than life landscapes, features that can define the spirit and history of the human habitation of this land. The mixed history of this land includes wonders and atrocities. The history of European expansion across this land often includes an imposition of man-made concepts onto a land created without humans in mind.

The human history of the American west is invariably shaped by the land, and through my series of altered landscapes, I attempt to explore how human activities and concepts are imposed on the land. The piece titled *Plowshare* shows the topography above the Rio Blanco nuclear test site, with radiating bands of alteration centered on the epicenter of three nuclear blasts that occurred underground in Colorado on May 17th, 1973. The piece titled *The Nipple* depicts the feature called "The Nipple" in North West Colorado, with the arbitrary Euclidean shapes that land allotments, extraction leases, and property rights use in an attempt to classify the fractal geometry of nature.

A more recent feature of Colorado's human interaction with the land has centered on outdoor recreation. The 14,000 foot peaks found in Colorado have significant attention paid to them, with the term "peak bagging" often applied to those who aim to summit as many mountains as they can. All of Colorado's 14ers have been isolated by their lowest encompassing contour line, and arranged in their general orientation across the state. These mammoth geologic features have been detached from their surroundings and presented in a consumable form, all for the fact that they are taller than the arbitrary 14,000 foot mark.