

MacDowell

FREEDOM TO CREATE

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Artists

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Arts as a National Value



The arts are once again a tension point as Washington considers budget cuts. While the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has always had bipartisan support, politics are not predictable. Consequently, the NEA budget has not kept up with need or potential across our country. Nonetheless, the NEA has led by invigorating local arts activity that can be measured in the hearts and minds of generations of Americans. MacDowell was among the first organizations to receive a grant from the NEA in the 70s, and it has helped us survive by pointing the way to best practices, incentivizing challenge funds, and endorsing the importance of residencies to America’s cultural life. By funding the NEA even modestly we keep the health of our country’s creative life an important part of the national agenda.

While we wonder what the future holds, Resident Director David Macy and I are happy to report that artists are doubling down on making art. Of MacDowell artists supported in 2016, 59% were women, 20% were older adults, and 34% were from culturally/racially diverse backgrounds. Artists came from 37 states and 17 countries. When we introduced the journalism initiative two years ago, we didn’t anticipate the degree to which a change in the times would require more thoughtful and contextual reporting. We are nearing our goal to double journalism residencies to 20 per year, reaching millions of readers. These writers are addressing the critical issues of our time including the environment, the criminal justice system, immigration, as well as human interest stories that shine a light on who we are and broaden our perspectives. Help us meet our goal for journalism residencies. Every gift will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous \$1 million grant from The Calderwood Charitable Foundation.

We are very happy to report that the New York office anticipates moving into new space on West 23rd Street. It’s too early to speculate when that might happen, so stay tuned for updates.


Cheryl A. Young, Executive Director

» BOARD ADDITIONS/CHANGES



Arthur Simms
Sculptor



Mary Carswell
Trustee Emerita

Welcome to Arthur Simms, a Guggenheim and Rome Prize winner -- among others -- who is our latest addition to the Colony’s leadership. The board also elected Mary Carswell trustee emerita for her inexhaustible commitment and dedication to all things MacDowell. The board wanted to acknowledge Carswell’s years of service, which go well beyond the time she served as executive director from 1987 to 1997. She has served on many committees and in numerous capacities.



STEPHEN KARAM’S THE HUMANS EARNS BEST PLAY TONY

Playwright **Stephen Karam** (08, 10, 11, 13) has had quite a year. After his latest play, *The Humans*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and won an Obie Award for playwriting, Karam was called to the stage (pictured above) at New York’s Beacon Theatre to accept the Tony for Best Play. *The Humans* also won for performances by a leading actor in a featured role (Reed Birney), leading actress in a featured role (Jane Houdyshell), and earned a Tony for best scenic design (David Zinn). On top of all that, his new adaptation of *The Cherry Orchard* starred Diane Lane and played on Broadway.

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS TO THREE

Three MacDowell Fellows won the esteemed MacArthur Fellowship in 2016. The fellowship is a grant of \$625,000 paid out over five years to individuals “who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future.” The fellowship is designed to provide recipients with the flexibility to pursue their creative activities in the absence of specific obligations or reporting requirements. Congratulations to playwright **Branden Jacob-Jenkins** (12, 15, 16), poet **Claudia Rankine** (95, 02), and composer **Julia Wolfe** (89).

Jessica Stern Writes About Karadžić in Next Project



Jessica Stern, a national expert in terrorism, trauma, and post-traumatic stress, completed her fourth residency this past summer. While here, she began writing a book she is still researching on Radovan Karadžić and the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. Karadžić was president of the Serbian part of Bosnia Herzegovina. He was convicted in 2016 for genocide and committing war crimes.

Stern’s most recent book is *ISIS: The State of Terror*, co-authored by J.M. Berger. She is one of a growing cadre of MacDowell Fellows pursuing writing projects based on deep reporting. We asked her a handful of questions about her MacDowell residency:

Q: How do you prepare for a meeting with an imposing presence like Radovan Karadžić?

STERN: Karadžić is the most challenging perpetrator I’ve ever interviewed. For one thing, he’s brilliant. He’s not just a war criminal; he is also a psychiatrist, a poet, a novelist, and an energy healer. He’s an expert liar and a master manipulator. He is polite when he wants to

be, a charismatic charmer, with an extraordinary ability to control his emotions. When he was in hiding for 12 years, he spent part of the time disguised as a new-age energy healer. He grew his hair long and wore it in a top-knot on his head. He lost 70 pounds, and changed his accent. Thus, he’s an incredibly accomplished actor. He is a shameless flirt (in my case, only in front of the guards), and reportedly, a tremendously accomplished seducer. “A chameleon,” in the words of historian Robert Donia. I’ve spent 50 hours interviewing him, four hours at a stretch. We didn’t take any breaks. Thus it was very intense. How often do we sit and chat for four hours with any one person as adults?

As for how I prepare, I pray for guidance and hope that someone is listening.

Q: Given the intensity of your field work, how does your writing process benefit from a residency?

STERN: For me, the research – studying perpetrators of violence – is extremely difficult, emotionally as well as spiritually. [This kind of] writing requires extended periods of concentration. To be able to focus on one thing, and to take breaks when I want or need them, rather than in response to the needs of others, is something that a residency provides – something that is very hard to find in one’s normal life. In my normal life, I cannot imagine putting my own needs before those of others for days on end. At MacDowell I feel utterly fed, maybe even indulged – spiritually, aesthetically, intellectually, and physically. The combination of the silence that MacDowell offers, the surroundings, and the presence of fellow artists struggling to create is a healing gift.

Q: Have the new challenges of funding deeply investigated stories changed the way you think about opportunities like residencies?

STERN: I fund my work by teaching and grants. Often those grants require me to do work not directly related to my own long-form writing, so it doesn’t always help me get my writing done. Many writers today have to teach. I love teaching. But teaching, and cooking, and my wonderful extended family are the main things that get in the way of writing books. Residencies provide much needed time for contemplation ... time to be alone but not too alone.

Q: What is the benefit of doing your type of work in an environment like MacDowell where so many other disciplines are being practiced?

STERN: I find it incredibly inspiring to be around artists across disciplines. We face many similar challenges. The work is lonely, but people are a great impediment to getting work done; we all face that tension. Listening to MacDowell composers, hearing them read their poetry or novels, seeing them explain their art works – all of this is like food for the mind. And then there is nature right outside our doors, food for the spirit. I feel incredibly enriched by spending time at MacDowell.

Jessica Stern served on President Clinton’s National Security Council Staff in 1994–95. She is a 2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar and, in 2009, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work on trauma and violence.

You can read the full Q&A at: <https://goo.gl/JyHfIj>



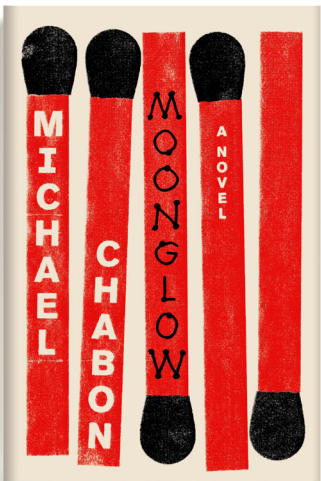
MacDowell and Schelling Studio: 110 Years of Working Artists

For the Colony’s first three summers, sculptor **Helen Mears** and writer **Mary Mears** each worked in what was then known as Bark Studio. Named for the hemlock shingles cladding its exterior, the studio was built under Marian MacDowell’s watchful eye and completed in the year of her husband’s death (1908). Twenty five years later it was renamed the Ernest Schelling Studio in honor of the renowned composer and early MacDowell board president. Helen Scholz, widow of Schelling, was a longtime supporter of MacDowell, a legacy continued today by her son Christopher Scholz and his wife Ines Elskop. Over those same 25 years, 20 new studios were built and the Colony’s reputation was firmly established. As the very first studio at America’s first artist residency program, Schelling Studio will always have a special place in history.

A hip-roofed one-story dwelling, the studio’s interior is distinguished by its nine-foot ceilings, fieldstone fireplace, and open views to the south and east. Perched on a slope at the boundary of woodland and meadow, the structure seems to levitate on wood columns supporting porches on two sides. In 2006 O’Neil-Pennoyer Architects’ renovation design provided barrier-free access by replacing entry stairs with a bridge and swale system. Inside, a bed alcove was created with the addition of a closet and cupboard partition near the entrance. A small section of porch space was stolen to enlarge the bathroom, including a shower, to make the studio suitable as a live-work space.

More than the building’s physical form, Schelling’s story is best told through the decades of artists’ names and dates printed on the “tombstones.” In 1921 **Dubose Heyward** came to Schelling to write poems and in 1949 his widow **Dorothy Heyward** would sit down to work at the very same desk. Writer, activist, minister, and attorney **Dr. Pauli Murray** worked in Schelling for the first two of her three residencies (’55, ’56, and ’59). Just months after the Supreme Court ruled to implement Brown v Board of Education “with all deliberate speed,” Dr. Murray was at MacDowell writing her seminal work, *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family* (published 1956).

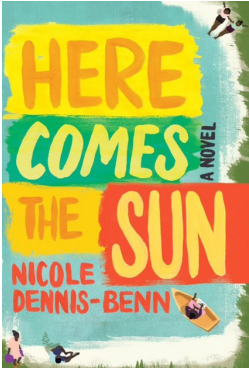
In 1962, while **Mary Lee Settle** was working in Schelling, John F. Kennedy named Dr. Murray to his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Nearly two decades later Ms. Settle founded the PEN/Faulkner Awards and, in 1998, Schelling authors **Mary Gaitskill** and **Donald Antrim** were named as PEN finalists. **Jonathan Franzen** and **Peter Cameron** also share the Schelling-PEN connection as finalists in 2002 and 2003, respectively. Other Schelling writers in the past 30 years include **Tillie Olsen**, **Joan Acocella**, **Andrew Sean Greer**, **Mary Ruefle**, **Sheri Fink**, and **Siddhartha Deb**. And while writers hold a strong majority on the studio’s tombstones, artists of other disciplines have also found a haven in MacDowell’s oldest studio: filmmaker **Kevin Everson**, architect **Fritz Haeg**, playwright **Paula Vogel**, and interdisciplinary artists **Nina Katchadourian**, **Sandra Tsing Loh**, **Mike Daisey**, and **Sarah Jones**.



14 TITLES ON NY TIMES 100 NOTABLE BOOKS LIST WRITTEN BY FELLOWS

FICTION AND POETRY

- Another Brooklyn* by **Jacqueline Woodson**
- The Association of Small Bombs* by **Karan Mahajan**
- Commonwealth* by **Ann Patchett**
- Here Comes the Sun* by **Nicole Dennis-Benn**
- I Must Be Living Twice: New and Selected Poems, 1975-2014* by **Eileen Myles**
- Larose* by **Louise Erdrich**
- Look: Poems* by **Solmaz Sharif**
- Moonglow* by **Michael Chabon**
- Still Here* by **Lara Vapnyar**
- The Underground Railroad* by **Colson Whitehead**



NONFICTION

- Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America* by **Patrick Phillips**
- Far and Away. Reporting From the Brink of Change: Seven Continents, Twenty-Five Years* by **Andrew Solomon**
- Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life* by **Ruth Franklin**
- Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South* by **Beth Macy**

News

Delta Omicron: Deep Energy Retrofit for Next Century

BY SAM STEEVES

In July, Delta Omicron Studio reopened after a “deep energy retrofit” as described by MacDowell Colony Resident Director David Macy. The renovation has resulted in a much more energy efficient and comfortable live-in creative space. Originally built in 1927 for composers, it can once again be used for that purpose.

Delta Omicron Studio was funded by the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity and designed by architect M.E. Winsor with a steeply pitched roofline, intersecting gables, and a slate roof. First renovated in the mid-1950s with the addition of a fuel-oil heating system, this latest refit saw the building interior stripped to its timbers so it could be made completely weathertight with closed-cell foam insulation sprayed in wall and ceiling cavities, and rigid foam insulation applied on the exterior walls and roof deck. Timothy Groesbeck Builders completed the work after a design by Sheldon Pennoyer Architects.

The studio ceiling is now higher, and in place of the old entrance is a bed alcove. The new entrance, on-grade for accessibility, has been relocated to the south side where a small hip-roof addition includes a new screened porch as well as a small foyer, full bathroom, and a closet.

The old, leaky windows were replaced with more energy efficient units, built in LED lights have replaced incandescents, and an electric heat pump will now keep the studio warm in winter and dehumidified in summer. In the past the space has served writers **Louise Erdrich**, **Lois Lowry**, **Walter Mosley**, and **Suzan-Lori Parks**, as well as poets **Galway Kinnell** and **Stephen Dunn**. It has also housed visual artists **Janet Fish** and **Glenn Ligon**.

“Since the renovation, the studio looks much the same from outside while inside it is much lighter and more comfortable,” says Macy.

Recreating the studio’s architectural details and meeting today’s most stringent energy standards pushed total construction expenses to about \$300,000. Macy expressed appreciation for a \$20,000 donation from the Delta Omicron Fraternity and donations from Fellows who wanted to see their old studio refreshed. The Colony has established a building reserve fund within its endowment that benefits both historic preservation and responsible energy practices.

Macy said, “In the past few years we’ve completed three deep energy retrofits and installed a solar array to provide three quarters of our total annual electric consumption. New funding is still needed to move MacDowell along the path to a renewable energy future.... Having begun the process, I’m eager to move forward with similar improvements for the rest of the facilities.”



Artists



COURTESY IMAGE

David Cote (standing) and **Robert Paterson** with the masked cast of *Three Way*.

NEW AND NOTABLE PROJECTS: Composer **Robert Paterson** (03) and librettist **David Cote** (09) have collaborated on *Three Way*, a series of one-act operas that debuted at Nashville Opera in January. The pieces have been described as “Sex and the City meets The Twilight Zone.” The individual acts explore the future of love, sex, and need with a clever balance of humor and drama. *Three Way’s* contemporary characters all “collide at the intersection of power and desire to reveal the true longings of the human heart.”



Filmmaker **Daniel Nearing** (16) was named the inaugural Filmmaker in Residence for the Film Office of the City of Chicago and he was named Chicagoan of the Year for Film by *The Chicago Tribune*. The residency was awarded based on his concept for *Sister Carrie*, which he proposed to the Chicago film office during his MacDowell residency this past summer. Nearing’s most recent film, *Hogtown* (pictured above), was screened in New York at Cinépolis Chelsea in early December. That month, Columbia University also held an evening retrospective of his first two films.

Architect **Joel Sanders’** (99, 00, 07) design for Ichon Rex in Seoul, South Korea, has been opened. It weaves together three high-rise residential towers with landscaping, community buildings with walkable green roofs and a promenade overlooking the Han River. He also designed the exhibition “Gay Gotham: Art and Underground Culture in New York” at The Museum of the City of New York through February 26. It’s got everything from MacDowell legend **Leonard Bernstein** (62, 70, 72) to Andy Warhol to Mae West.



Visual artists **John Sutton**, **Ben Beres**, and **Zac Culler** (10, 13), a collaborative based in Seattle, won a \$100K grant for a community focused project to transform a defunct gas station into a sculptural “pocket park” and community center.

COURTESY IMAGE

Colson Whitehead Wins National Book Award

Colson Whitehead (at right in Kirby Studio; 99, 11) won the 2016 National Book Award for Fiction for his novel *The Underground Railroad*. The book, which chronicles a young slave’s harrowing travels north on a literal underground railway in search of freedom, has had quite a year. It was named by *Esquire*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, *O Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Time* magazine, among others, as a best book of the year. It was also a finalist for the Carnegie Medal and the Kirkus Prize. In its competition for the National Book Award it faced other MacDowell Fellows. Fiction Finalists this year included **Karan Mahajan** (12) and *The Association of Small Bombs*, and on the Fiction Longlist was **Adam Haslett** (99, 00, 06, 08, 12) with *Imagine Me Gone*. Poetry finalists this year included **Peter Gizzi** (91, 05, 15) with *Archeophonics* and **Solmaz Sharif** (15) with *Look*. Poetry Longlist Fellows included **Jane Mead** (16) with *World of Made and Unmade*, **Monica Youn** (06, 11) with *Blackacre*, and **Kevin Young** (93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 13) with *Blue Laws*.



Peggy Anderson Gives Gift of Pivotal Experiences

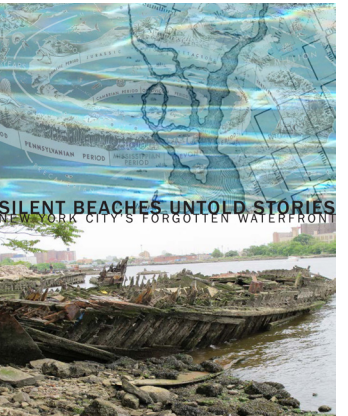
Journalist and author **Peggy Anderson** (77, 78, 85) wrote the book that defined her career during two MacDowell Fellowships in the late 1970s. *Nurse* was a landmark account of one nurse’s rounds in a hospital ward written by a reporter dedicated to uncovering the often heartwarming, harrowing, and even beautiful moments in one professional’s experiences. It went on to sell more than two million copies and was adapted into an Emmy-winning TV series. Before Peggy died in January 2016 at the age of 77 (see obituary on page 6), those long-ago residencies still reverberated in her life. She recognized that impact by committing a significant portion of her estate to MacDowell. The resulting bequest will provide similar pivotal experiences for other artists.



While not every artist enjoys the same type of success as Peggy, many often make planned gifts like Peggy’s. Even if they cannot give back to MacDowell in their lifetimes, such large and small gifts make a timeless difference in supporting future generations of artists and the constant reincarnation of the residency community. The Marian MacDowell Society recognizes these donors while they are still with us. For questions about supporting MacDowell with a planned gift, contact the Development office at 212-535-9690 or development@macdowellcolony.org.

Fellows Contribute to New Book Chronicling NYC’s Waterfront

Silent Beaches, Untold Stories: New York City’s Forgotten Waterfront chronicles “the extraordinary past and present embedded in New York City’s more than 600 miles of coastline through a stunning selection of rare photographs, history, new fiction, and contemporary art,” according to its Amazon page. Writer **Elizabeth Albert** (04) has written historical texts on New York’s lesser-known waterfront spaces like Dead Horse Bay, where the pre-automobile city’s legions of horses were slaughtered; Hart Island, the city’s still-active potter’s field; and Sandy Ground, one of the earliest free black communities in the nation, made prosperous through oystering and strawberry farming. Ten new works of fiction have also been included, “setting the stage where history, fiction, and image coalesce into a powerful and haunting experience.” *Silent Beaches* features the work of **Susan Choi** (12, 13, 15), **Elizabeth Gaffney** (97, 98), **Nelly Reifler** (05), **Carrie Mae Weems** (14), and others.



New York Film Festival Features Work of 11 Fellows

The 54th New York Film Festival included the films of 12 MacDowell Fellows. The first fiction feature from **Natalia Almada** (06, 07, 08, 11, 13, 16), *Todo lo Demás (Everything Else)*, had the distinction of premiering at both the New York festival as well as the Rome Film Festival simultaneously on October 14. The film features Oscar-nominated actress Adriana Barraza in the lead. Other Fellows who screened their films at the fest include **Dash Shaw** (16) with *My Entire High School Sinking into the Sea*, **Allison Maclean** (98, 00) with *The Rehearsal*, **Jesse McLean** (16) with *See a Dog, Hear a Dog*, **Tomonari Nishikawa** (10, 11) with *Ten Mornings Ten Evenings and One Horizon*, **Kevin Jerome Everson** (03, 12) with *Ears, Nose, and Throat*, **Mohamed Siam** (16) with *Whose Country?*, **Deborah Stratman** (10, 14) with *The Illinois Parables*, **Jane Geiser** (90, 91) with *Flowers of the Sky*, **James Kienitz Wilkins** (14) with *Indefinite Pitch*, **Peter Hutton** (08) with *In Titan’s Goblet*, and in the Spotlight on Documentary category, **Bill Morrison** (00) with *Dawson City: Frozen Time*.

COURTESY IMAGE



Alia Malek Wins Hiett Prize in the Humanities for Reporting

Journalist **Alia Malek** (15) received the 2016 Hiett Prize in the Humanities from the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture for her work reporting on civil and immigrant rights, and for covering the ongoing diaspora of people from the Middle East in their attempts to avoid armed conflict. The prize is awarded to “candidates in the early stages of careers devoted to the humanities and whose work shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public component related to contemporary culture.” During her residency in the fall of 2015, Malek completed a third of her forthcoming memoir of family, house, and country *The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria*. She is also the author of *A Country Called Amreeka: U.S. History Re-told Through Arab American Lives* and editor of *Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustices*. “I cannot believe it,” Malek said by telephone from her home in Brooklyn of the \$50,000 Hiett Prize. “It’s amazing. It’s humbling, it’s needed, deeply appreciated.”



J. Larry Allums, **Alia Malek**, and Jaina Sanga, Dallas Insitute board member.

JOHN “DOC” STRANGE

Four Philadelphia-based Fellows Earn Pew Grants

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage awarded three fellowships and one project grant to MacDowell Fellows this past summer. Composer **Andrea Clearfield** (05, 09, 10, 11, 14) won a Pew Fellowship as a result of her “deep, emotive languages in works that explore themes ranging from freedom and oppression to ancient cultures, religion, health, and technology.” Filmmaker **Mark Kendall** (15) received a Pew Fellowship based on a “poetic cinematic voice” the award committee sees in his experimental documentary films that “reflect on journey and transformation, globalization and global warming.” Interdisciplinary artist **Sharon Hayes** (99) won a Pew Fellowship because, said the officials, she “blends various mediums — including video, performance, installation, and photography — to probe the complex intersections of history, politics, gender, and speech within private and public spaces. Finally, composer **David Ludwig** (04, 13) received a project grant for *The anchoress*, a song cycle for soprano presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, channeling the voice and inner life of a medieval “ anchoress” bridging Renaissance and contemporary musical languages.



Work Made at MacDowell Wins Inaugural Israeli Prize for Amitay Sadovsky

Visual artist **Ella Amitay Sadovsky** (15) was named the winner of the 2016 Ann and Ari Rosenblatt Prize. The award will be given each year to an Israel-based artist. Amitay Sadovsky said her entry was a video installation initiated during her spring 2015 residency. According to the artist, “In Firth Studio I initiated the concept of five videos projected simultaneously as a mimic of an internal house.” View a slideshow of her winning work at rosenblattartprize.com/prize-winner.

Obie, Whiting, Other Awards Go to Fellows

Congratulations are due to three Fellows who received Obie Awards in the spring: **Annie Baker** (09, 14) was presented a Special Citation, Collaboration as the playwright of *John*; **Mimi Lien** (12) also received a Special Citation for Collaboration as the set designer for *Skeleton*; and **Stephen Karam** (08, 10, 11, 13) for playwrighting for *The Humans*.

Composer **Dan Moses Schreier** (13) won a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical for *American Psycho*.

Playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** (89, 91, 95) was inducted onto the Playwright’s Sidewalk in front of the Lucille Lortel Theatre on Christopher Street in NYC by the Off-Broadway League.

Playwright **Anne Washburn** (01, 08, 13) won the Alpert Theater Award.

Whiting Writers Awards were presented to playwright **Madeline George** (04, 15) for her dramatic work *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence* and **Alice Sola Kim** (14) for her work of fiction, *Monstrous Affections*.

Photographer **Rosalind Fox Solomon** (02, 03) won the 2016 Lucie Award for Achievement in Portraiture, one of eight awards handed out in 2016 by the Lucie Foundation.

Sheila Curran Bernard (92, 95) was awarded a 2016 Artist’s Fellowship in Playwriting/Screenwriting from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the 2016 Geri Ashur Screenwriting Award. In May she received the University at Albany’s award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities, and in 2016-17 she will be the Community Fellow in the university’s Institute for History and Public Engagement.



Suzan-Lori Parks

MORE NEW AND NOTABLE:

Prints by visual artist **Susan Schwalb** (74, 75, 89) were included in *Drawing and Prints: Selections from the Met Collection* in the Robert Wood Johnson Gallery this fall.

Visual artist **Colleen Kiely** (96, 97, 99) had a solo show “800 Million Heartbeats” at The Trustman Gallery at Simmons College in Boston.

Composer **Alicia Svigals** (14) completed a tour with *The Yellow Ticket*, a 1918 silent film she accompanied with her own original live score.

Interdisciplinary artist **Line Kallmayer** (13) published an essay, “Mother’s Tears,” in the fall issue of *AGNI* magazine.

Painter **Eric Brown** (16) showed new work in a solo show at Crush Curatorial this past fall.

Composer/jazz flutist **Jamie Baum** (14) toured the western states for a month before heading to Poland to teach and tour, before playing jazz festivals in Portugal and Spain.

Poet **Lauren Hilger** (12, 14) released her debut poetry collection *Lady Be Good* this past fall with cover art by interdisciplinary artist **Larry Krone** (11, 12).

Sculptor **Martha Clippinger** (13) had a solo show at Elizabeth Harris Gallery in New York.

The Sea Ranch Songs featuring Kronos Quartet is the latest CD/DVD by composer **Aleksandra Vrebalov** (98, 03, 06, 11). The DVD includes an experimental/archival film by visual artist **Andrew Lyndon** (91).

Filmmaker **Shelly Silver** (05, 07, 11, 12, 15) showed her documentary *In Complete World*, shot in the early days of the 2008 presidential primary, at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Composer **Joshua Fried** (97, 99, 00, 01, 02) released a new record: *Seize the Means*.

Architect **Ifeanyi Oganwu** (13) unveiled a new collection of works at this year’s edition of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in Somerset House in London.

Filmmaker **Anne Aghion** (11) was named to the jury at the Cannes Film Festival last season for the l’Oeil d’or, the new documentary prize.

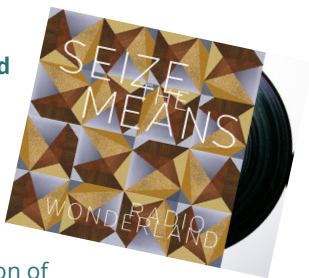
The architectural design team of **Ersela Kripa** (09, 13) and **Stephen Mueller** (09, 13) were featured in three shows in NYC and El Paso.

Visual artist **Bryan Zanisnik** (13) had a solo exhibit in Los Angeles and showed sculpture at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York.

Architect **Johannes Knoops** (96, 97, 99) showed his installation *Venice Re-Mapped* at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale.

Composer **Jack Perla** (95, 14) premiered his opera, *Shalimar the Clown*, at Opera Theater St. Louis.

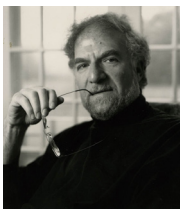
Writer **Honor Molloy** (02, 06) premiered her play *Crackskull Row* during the 1st Irish Theatre Festival in New York in September.



Remembering

Peggy Anderson | Writer Peggy Anderson, author of the 1978 national best seller *Nurse*, died in Philadelphia on January 17, 2016. She was 77. Anderson, who was in residence in 1977, 1978, and 1985, graduated from Augustana College and spent two years in Togo with the Peace Corps. She became a reporter at the *Washington Monthly*, joined *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1969, and worked in features until 1973, when she decided to write her first book, *The Daughters*, about the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her third book, *Children's Hospital*, which came after *Nurse*, followed six patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was not as successful as *Nurse*, but Anderson said it contained, "the most gratifying material I ever worked on in my life."

Germaine Claire | Visual artist Germaine Claire died in in Austin, Texas, on March 7, 2016. She was 77. Claire, who was in residence in 2000, was born in Detroit and earned a B.F.A. in sculpture at the University of Michigan and an M.F.A. in painting at Wayne State University. She became the first woman to receive a one-person exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Art, and taught at Parson's School of Design and NYU. She opened her first gallery, St. Mark's Position, followed by the Germaine Keller Gallery in Garrison, NY, and 1305.3 Position Gallery in Austin. Her work has been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art Archives, the NEA, Sol LeWitt, the Detroit Institute of Art, and others.



Steve Fayer | Writer Steve Fayer, known for his Emmy award-winning script for the civil rights documentary series *Eyes on the Prize*, died in Westwood, MA, on November 29, 2015 at the age of 80. He was in residence in 1991 and 2012. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania. After a successful career in commercial television, Fayer worked for Blackside, Inc. in Boston and won several prestigious awards including his Emmy for the script "Mississippi: Is This America?", an episode of *Eyes on the Prize* for PBS. He also received the Writers Guild award for his work on *George Wallace: Settin' the Woods on Fire*. He co-authored *Voices of Freedom* with Henry Hampton. It was named one of the notable books of the year by *The New York Times* in 1990.



Peter Barrington Hutton | Filmmaker Peter Hutton, whose silent experimental films were noted for their beautifully photographed portraits of landscapes and cities, died in Poughkeepsie, NY, on June 25, 2016. He was 71. According to *The New York Times*, Hutton, who was in residence in 2008, started making films in the early 1970s that were generally devoid of camera movement, suggesting sketchbooks. He earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute, and taught filmmaking at a number of schools, including Bard College where he directed the program. He also worked as a cinematographer, largely on documentaries including former student Ken Burns's *Baseball* and *The Statue of Liberty*. The Museum of Modern Art held an 18-film retrospective of his work in 2008. A 2010 *Film Comment* poll ranked his *At Sea* the best avant-garde film of the decade.

James C. McKinley | Writer James McKinley, a professor of English at the University of Missouri Kansas City for more than 30 years, died in Kansas City on March 28, 2015. He was 79. McKinley, who was in residence in 1983 and 1989, earned degrees in journalism and psychology from the University of Missouri. After a short stint in the U.S. Army, he went into advertising, working for Procter & Gamble, and Young & Rubicam. He quit advertising in 1966 and returned to the University of Missouri to earn his Ph.D. in English literature. He taught literature and journalism, and published several books of short stories, including *Acts of Love*, *The Fickleman Suite and Other Stories*, and *Who Taught Me to Swim*. He also wrote *Assassination in America*, a 1977 history of political killings. His novel, *The Woman in the River*, was published in 2002.

Harriet Shorr | Painter and teacher Harriet Shorr died on April 9, 2016 in New York. She was 76. She was professor emerita at the School of Art and Design at SUNY Purchase. Known for large-scale realistic still life paintings that were full of light and color, Shorr was a MacDowell fellow in 1971. She was also a writer and poet. Shorr received many awards such as the National Endowment of the Arts Award in 1980, the American Artist Achievement Award in 1994, The Pollock-Krasner Award in 2000, and the Emil and Dines Carlsen Award in Painting in 2009.

Charles M. Turner | Former MacDowell Colony maintenance employee Charles M. Turner died in his home in Peterborough on May 7, 2016. He was 92. Turner attended Jaffrey schools and lived on the family farm until he entered the U.S. Army in 1949, serving on active duty during the Korean War until November 1951. He worked as a plumber for O.B. Peirce Co. of Peterborough for 22 years and worked at MacDowell for 15 years before retiring in 1993.



Ira Sachs and Marissa Tomei at the 2014 Fundraiser in NYC. (Brian Sargent photo)

Ira Sachs Gets Mid-Career Retrospective at MoMA

This past summer, the films of **Ira Sachs** (01) were featured during a retrospective that showcased his seven feature films and five shorts. Sachs's intimate work—ranging from experimental film to dramas and comedies—looks at relationships, love, sexuality, gay identity, family life, social issues, and city lifestyles with subtlety and nuance, depicting people's day-to-day struggles with isolation, individuality, and learning how to communicate in wider circles.

Writer Bilge Ebiri, in his review of the film *Little Men*, said, "If Martin Scorsese was the quintessential auteur of New York in the 1970s and '80s ... and Spike Lee that of New York in the late '80s and '90s ... then Ira Sachs is gradually becoming the quintessential auteur of today's New York—the one of class inequality, and of relationships transformed by the changing city around them."

Akosua Adoma Owusu Granted Rights to *On Monday of Last Week*



Filmmaker **Akosua Adoma Owusu** with one of the stars of *Black Sunshine*. (Obibini Pictures photo)

Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie granted filmmaker **Akosua Adoma Owusu** (13) the exclusive film rights for her company Obibini Pictures, LLC to produce *On Monday of Last Week*, an adaptation of a short story of the same name from Adichie's collection, *The Thing Around Your Neck*. *On Monday of Last Week* also reflects themes explored in previous works by the filmmaker, specifically identity and standards of beauty, including her award-winning short *Me Broni Ba* (2009) and her forthcoming feature *Black Sunshine*. *Me Broni Ba* investigates the fraught relationship between images of beauty and power, telling an emotionally resonant story of a young child's migration from Africa to the United States and her painful efforts to fit in. *Black Sunshine* tells the story of hairdresser Rosemary Konadu and her 12-year-old albino daughter, Coco.

Koji Nakano Named Scripps Erma Taylor O'Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor

This past fall, composer **Koji Nakano** was named the Scripps Erma Taylor O'Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. He lectured at various campuses of The Claremont Colleges and joined in the pre-concert panel discussion for the world premiere of his work *Imagined Sceneries* for two sopranos, koto, chamber ensemble and pre-recorded tracks at Scripps Clark Humanities Museum in October.



Composer **Koji Nakano** directs *Imagined Sceneries* at California State University, San Bernardino on November 1, 2016. (Giovanni Ortega photo)

Save the Dates

► **National Benefit in NYC has moved to a new location! Save Monday, May 1, 2017** for an evening with artists, friends, and a program not to be missed at The Capitale on The Bowery.



► **Friends of MacDowell trip, New Orleans November 8 - 12, 2017** Join us in the Big Easy. Details to come.



Lena Dunham, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Michael Chabon. (Brian Sargent photo)

Ta-Nehisi Coates and Lena Dunham Talk Politics and Creativity with Michael Chabon

Journalist and National Book Award-winner Ta-Nehisi Coates and bestselling author, feminist, and HBO showrunner Lena Dunham joined MacDowell Chairman of the Board and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon on stage at the 4th annual Chairman's Evening at the New Museum in New York on December 5, 2016. These iconic artists engaged in the kind of high-octane conversation about creativity that takes place at the Colony every day. They talked about their current work, the work that they'd like to do, the importance of the late David Carr to both Coates and Dunham, and what the role of art should be in a changing political world. See the entire program at vimeo.com/channels/macdowellcolony.

Events

Community Engagement



MACDOWELL IN THE SCHOOLS

In May, poets **Monica Sok** and **Javier Zamora** shared their journeys as poets with 65 Contoocook Valley Regional High School students and 10 faculty and staff in the school's Lucy Hurlin Theatre.

In July, composer **Richard Dubugnon** discussed his process, how he became a composer, and how he makes a living at it with music students visiting from the Walden School. He showed students a 15-minute video of his composition *Blitz* in Savidge Library.

In September, composer, conductor, and MacDowell Colony board member **Tania León** (pictured above) visited ConVal High School where she related her life story, her creative influences and inspirations, and her belief in the power of artistic collaboration to about 120 students and adults in the Lucy Hurlin Theater. She also shared some of her music live on piano and screened some video before an energetic conversation with students about their own interests. Later that month, poet **Keith Wilson** visited Mark Holding's advanced placement literature class to talk about poetry and share his own work with a small class.

MACDOWELL DOWNTOWN

In May, composer **Dave Malloy** performed songs on piano from past and current work, and discussed how he takes major works of literature and turns them into musicals. He performed selections from his adaptations of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* and William Shakespeare's Henry plays.

In June, performance artists **Elizabeth LaPrelle** and **Anna Roberts-Gevalt** sang traditional Appalachian ballads while accompanying themselves on guitar, fiddle, and banjo before an overflow crowd at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture. They also demonstrated their use of their original "crankies," hand-operated backlit scrolls that lend visuals to their storytelling and performances.

Beginning in June, interdisciplinary artist **Paul Festa** performed six separate Bach sonatas and partitas in three separate "mini concerts" that he recorded for an ongoing project. He performed at the Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, at All Saints Church, and at Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture.

In August, in the lead up to Medal Day, writer **ZZ Packer** presented a slideshow and spoke about the cultural import and impact of the novels of 2016 MacDowell Medalist Toni Morrison at the Monadnock Center.

In September, writer **Lawrence "Ren" Weschler** presented video excerpts and photos of **Oliver Sacks** (07) as well as memories of his friendship with the late author, neurologist, and adventurer. Weschler is working on a biography of Sacks.

In October, composer **Eric Moe** (above right) performed two pieces on piano, showed a 10-minute clip from his one-woman opera "Tri-Stan," talked about his creative process and his work, and answered questions from the audience.

THING IN THE SPRING, AND MORE

In May, visual artist and writer **Alice Attie** presented slides of her work and brought more than a dozen hand-drawn pieces to the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH.

Writer **Amanda Petrusich** participated in the downtown Peterborough arts festival "The Thing in the Spring." She spoke at the Toadstool Bookshop about her most recent book, *Do Not Sell At Any Price* (about collectors



of rare, pre-war 78 rpm records) and then read from a new piece she worked on during her 2015 residency.

In July, playwright **Jennifer Barclay** led a 90-minute movement and character workshop for children and adults at Andy's Summer Playhouse in Wilton. Playwright and 2013 Fellow **Jess Barbagallo** participated in a new "artist incubation" initiative at Andy's Summer Playhouse as well, workshopping a new work, *Melissa So Far*, a theatrical adaptation of Alex Gino's young-adult novel *George*. Also in July, film director **Jay Craven** (91) conducted a question and answer session after a showing of his newest film, *Peter & John* – based on the Guy de Maupassant novel of the same name – at Wilton Town Hall Theater. He did the same for a screening in Peterborough in August.

In August, composer **Carl Bettendorf** introduced his piece *Il y a l'Océan* at a Monadnock Music String Quartet performance at the Nelson Congregational Church.

In September, the Monadnock Writers Group held its meeting in Savidge Library. Resident Director David Macy provided a history of the Colony and an update of the Calderwood Journalism Initiative. Two artists-in-residence, writers **Emily Shelton** and **Jane Roland Martin**, read work and spoke to the group.

In October, composer/musician **Sam Moss** (12) performed on a triple bill (with Wooden Dinosaur and Trevor Healy) as part of a Peak into Peterborough concert. The show was in Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center.

» FELLOWSHIPS

From May 2016 through October 2016, The MacDowell Colony welcomed a total 156 artists from 25 states and 12 countries. The group included 68 writers, 18 visual artists, 18 theatre artists, 17 film/video artists, 15 composers, 13 interdisciplinary artists, and seven architects.

LESLEY ARIMAH, Writer
Saint Louis Park, MN

KATIE ARNOLD, Writer, Santa Fe, NM

MICHAEL ASHKIN, Visual Artist
Ithaca, NY

LISA AUERBACH, Visual Artist
Los Angeles, CA

JENNIFER BARCLAY, Theatre Artist
Silver Spring, MD

SHANE BAUER, Writer
Oakland, CA

MICHAEL BEAMAN, Architect
Cambridge, MA

MATEO BENDESKY, Film/Video Artist
Buenos Aires, Argentina

APRIL BERNARD, Writer
Saratoga Springs, NY

LEA BERTUCCI, Composer
Ridgewood, NY

CARL BETTENDORF, Composer
Bronx, NY

NATALIE BOOKCHIN, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

MARIANNE BORUCH, Writer
West Lafayette, IN

KAY BOSGRAAF, Writer
Funkstown, MD

MICHELLE BOULE, Interdisciplinary
Artist, Brooklyn, NY

PAUL BRANTLEY, Composer
New York, NY

ERIC BROWN, Visual Artist
New York, NY

DANIEL CASTRO, Writer
Metairie, LA

CRISTOBAL CEA, Interdisciplinary
Artist
Brooklyn, NY

JENNIFER CHANG, Writer
Washington, DC

NATE CHINEN, Writer, Beacon, NY

ANDREA COHEN, Writer
Watertown, MA

JENNIFER PAIGE COHEN, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, IN

LISA RENÉE COONS, Composer
Kalamazoo, MI

GREG CORSO, Architect
Syracuse, NY

JORGE IGNACIO CORTINAS, Theatre
Artist, New York, NY

JENNIFER CROFT, Writer, Tiffin, IA

SEBASTIAN CURRIER, Composer
New York, NY

SUSANNA DANIEL, Writer
Madison, WI

NANCY DINIZ, Architect, New York,
NY

DAVID DOMINIQUE, Composer
Los Angeles, CA

RICHARD DUBUGNON, Composer
Paris, France

STEPHEN DUNN, Writer, Frostburg,
MD

ERIC EKSTRAND, Writer
Winston-Salem, NC

MYRIAM EL HAJJ, Film/Video Artist
Beirut, Lebanon

ANDREA ELLIOTT, Writer, New York,
NY

AMZE EMMONS, Visual Artist
Philadelphia, PA

PETER FAHEY, Composer
Clonmel, Ireland

PAUL FESTA, Interdisciplinary Artist
San Francisco, CA

LIANA FINCK, Writer, Brooklyn, NY

LAUREN FRANCIS-SHARMA, Writer
Kensington, MD

KIT FRICK, Writer, Brooklyn, NY

ROBIN FROHARDT, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

DAN FROOT, Theatre Artist
Los Angeles, CA

MARA GIBSON, Composer, Shawnee,
KS

MICHAEL GITLIN, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

ILONA GRANET, Interdisciplinary
Artist, New York, NY

ROSIE HABER, Film/Video Artist
Los Angeles, CA

LOUISA HALL, Writer, Brooklyn, NY

JESSE HAWLEY, Theatre Artist
Marion, MA

DONNA HENES, Interdisciplinary
Artist, Brooklyn, NY

RAGE HEZEKIAH, Writer, Watertown,
MA

TUNG-HUI HU, Writer, Ann Arbor, MI

JOYCE HWANG, Architect, Buffalo, NY

JULIE IROMUANYA, Writer, Tuscon, AZ

ZAID JABRI, Composer
Kraków, POLAND

BILL JACOBSON, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

TANIA JAMES, Writer
Washington, DC

JULIA JARCHO, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

GEORGE JENNE, Visual Artist
Chapel Hill, NC

ANU JINDAL, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

KATHRYN JOYCE, Writer
Astoria, NY

GINA KAMENSKY, Film/Video Artist
Somerville, MA

ADITI KAPIL, Theatre Artist
Minneapolis, MN

TAHIR KARMAI, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

JAIME KARNES, Writer, Dover, NH

ALISON S.M. KOBAYASHI,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

GIL KOFMAN, Theatre Artist
Los Angeles, CA

RAFIL KROLL-ZAIDI, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

MAX KUO, Architect
Andover, MA

JUSTIN KURITZKES, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

ELIZABETH LAPRELLE,
Interdisciplinary Artist,
Rural Retreat, VA

PAUL LAZAR, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

KATY LEDERER, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

TANIA LEON, Composer, Nyack, NY

SIOBHAN LIDDELL, Visual Artist
New York, NY

LIANA LIU, Writer, New York, NY

DANNY LORBERBAUM, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

ABBEY LUCK, Interdisciplinary Artist
Los Angeles, CA

DAVE MALLOY, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

MICHAEL MANDIBERG,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

JANE ROLAND MARTIN, Writer
Lexington, MA

JESSE MCLEAN, Film/Video Artist
Shorewood, WI

ERIKA MEITNER, Writer
Blacksburg, VA

HAROLD MELTZER, Composer
New York, NY

THOMAS MIRA Y LOPEZ, Writer
Athens, OH

JEFFRY MITCHELL, Visual Artist
Seattle, WA

ERIC MOE, Composer
Pittsburgh, PA

KIEL MOE, Architect
Cambridge, MA

ELIZABETH MOORE, Writer
Cambridge, MA

JULIE MURRAY, Film/Video Artist
Iowa City, IA

DANIEL NEARING, Film/Video Artist
Chicago, IL

TAMEKA NORRIS, Visual Artist
Inglewood, CA

JEANINE OLESON, Interdisciplinary
Artist, Brooklyn, NY

FINBARR O'REILLY, Writer
Dublin, Ireland

JENA OSMAN, Writer
Philadelphia, PA

ZZ PACKER, Writer
Arlington, MA

RAJ PARAMESWARAN, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

JEROME PARKER, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

ANNIE-B PARSON, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

VESNA PAVLOVIC, Visual Artist
Nashville, TN

DOMINICA PHETTEPLACE, Writer
Berkeley, CA

MARTIN PHILIP, Writer
White River Junction, VT

JAYNE ANNE PHILLIPS, Writer
Jamaica Plain, MA

BOOMER PINCHES, Writer
Northampton, MA

JOHN PIPKIN, Writer
Austin, TX

LAWRENCE RAAB, Writer
Williamstown, MA

RODRIGO REYES, Film/Video Artist
Merced, CA

ANNA ROBERTS-GEVALT,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Baltimore, MD

MARIANA RONDÓN, Film/Video Artist
Caracas, Venezuela

PETER ROSTOVSKY, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

MIA ROVEGNO, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

ROBIN SCHAER, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

ANTONI SCHONKEN, Composer
Stellenbosch, South Africa

ELIOT SCHREFER, Writer
New York, NY

MATTATHIAS SCHWARTZ, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

AURVI SHARMA, Writer
New York, NY

DASH SHAW, Writer
Richmond, VA

EMILY SHELTON, Writer
Cambridge, MA

PARINI SHROFF, Writer
Los Altos, CA

ALIX SHULMAN, Writer
New York, NY

MOHAMED SIAM, Film/Video Artist
Cairo, Egypt

DAN SIMMONS, Architect
Toronto, Canada

MONICA SOK, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

CELINE SONG, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

IAN SOROKA, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

MOLLY SPRINGFIELD, Visual Artist
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PEGGY STAFFORD, Theatre Artist
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Artist, New York, NY

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Brooklyn, NY

MELISA TIEN, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

DIANE TORR, Interdisciplinary Artist
Glasgow, Scotland

LY TRAN, Writer
Ridgewood, NY

GRACE TROXELL, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

TONY TULATHIMUTTE, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

DENNIS TUPICOFF, Film/Video Artist
Melbourne, Australia

MARITE UGAS, Film/Video Artist
Caracas, Venezuela

LAURA VAN DEN BERG, Writer
Cambridge, MA

SHAUN WALKER, Writer
Moscow, Russia

LATOYA WATKINS, Writer
Rowlett, TX

EVA WEBER, Film/Video Artist
London, U.K.

ANTHONY WEIGH, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

TORKWASE WELLS-DYSON, Visual
Artist, Brooklyn, NY

JULIA WERTZ, Writer; Napa, CA

LAWRENCE WESCHLER, Writer
Pelham, NY

JILL WIDNER, Writer, Yakima, WA

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Writer
Paris, France

KEITH WILSON, Writer, Chicago, IL

MARTHA WILSON, Interdisciplinary
Artist, Brooklyn, NY

HOWARD WOLF, Writer
Amherst, NY

JAVIER ZAMORA, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

DEBORAH ZLOTSKY, Visual Artist
Delmar, NY

On the cover



NORMAN BUTLER

In celebration of Women's History Month, we salute Marian MacDowell, without whom it's likely The MacDowell Colony wouldn't exist. A renowned pianist, Marian spent almost 25 winters performing her husband's music around the country to raise funds to support the Colony.

MacDowell is published twice a year, in summer and winter. We also produce a monthly eNews and are active on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Past Fellows may send newsworthy items to the editor.

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COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL DAY 2016 MAGAZINE
Don't miss our 2016 Medal Day supplement with photos and speeches from the day we celebrated author Toni Morrison. You can view or download it here: issuu.com/home/publications. Videos of of speeches can be found at: vimeo.com/themacdowellcolony

MacDowell
FREEDOM TO CREATE

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The MacDowell Colony awards Fellowships to artists of exceptional talent, providing time, space, and an inspiring environment in which to do creative work. The Colony was founded in 1907 by composer Edward MacDowell and pianist Marian Nevins MacDowell, his wife. Fellows receive room, board, and exclusive use of a studio. The sole criterion for acceptance is talent, as determined by a panel representing the discipline of the applicant. The MacDowell Colony was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1997 for "nurturing and inspiring many of this century's finest artists."

Applications are available on our website at
www.macdowellcolony.org.

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