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LETTHER FROM THE DIRECTOR

New Abundance of Talent

As you can see in this newsletter, MacDowell is everywhere. From the Times in Times Square to follow-ups being published, produced, exhibited, performed, and enjoyed! We are especially pleased that this year we were able to award more than 350 fellowships—a new record owing to the generous support of so many.

Working alongside the staff, the Board of Directors is deeply engaged in making MacDowell the best it can be. Half of our board is an artist. In May we elected Andy Senchak as board president following the six-year tenure of Susan Kingsbury. Susan Austin Snodgrass provided some outstanding advances, beginning with the transition of the Chairmanship from Robert MacFarquhar to Michael Chabon in 2010, guiding now fundraising strategies, and the Herndon search for new quarters in New York. It was clear Susan was going to be hard act to follow. Andy’s deep engagement with MacDowell since 2007, on the Library Design, Nominating, and Executive committees, and his distinguished career in finance and service on the board of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum make him a wonderful choice. We are thrilled to be working with Andy toward a shared vision of making MacDowell sustainable, expanding our presence in New York and nationally in new and significant ways, and building our community’s support without diluting the essence of our artists.

We’ve been spoiled at MacDowell by the talented people we’ve been blessed to have working among us, and that abundance doesn’t end at the board level. We are happy to introduce those of the newest staff members: Andrew Senchak, Andrew Zimmerman, and Jan Kingsbury. Finally, we hope you will join us at Medal Day on August 13th to honor David Lynch as the 58th MacDowell Medalist.

New York City Offices for MacDowell

MacDowell’s New York-based staff of 10 will be moving this August from their cramped quarters for the last 35 years at 163 East 81st Street to new offices at 521 West 23rd Street in Chelsea. The new location will provide relief with almost four times the space for workstations, meetings, presentations and exhibitions, including outdoor terraces. MacDowell’s New York-based staff of 10 will be moving this August from their cramped quarters for the last 35 years at 163 East 81st Street to new offices at 521 West 23rd Street in Chelsea. The new location will provide relief with almost four times the space for workstations, meetings, presentations and exhibitions, including outdoor terraces.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

J.T. Rogers, Rebecca Taichman, Mimi Lieu Receive Tony Awards

Just before going to press we learned that J.T. Rogers, Rebecca Taichman, and Mimi Lieu were each selected for Tony awards on June 11. They were among 10 awards handed out to Fellows from work among eight plays that collectively earned 16 Tony nominations. Here are the shows and how they fared.

Ols, by J.T. Rogers (27) won the Best Play award for Rogers and a Best Actor in a Featured Role award. It earned seven nominations.

Indecent, by Paula Vogel (53) earned Nominations for Best Direction of a Play for Rebecca Taichman (11) and Best Lighting Design. The pair collaborated on the play while at MacDowell.

Mimi Lieu’s War Paint (10), directed by Michael Korie (16), won 12 nominations, Best Costume Design, Best Lighting, Best Original Score by Malloy, among them.

Finally, we hope you will join us at Medal Day on August 13th to honor David Lynch as the 58th MacDowell Medalist.

Filmmaker David Lynch Named 2017 Edward MacDowell Medalist

This year’s Medal Day celebration will honor filmmaker David Lynch during a free public ceremony on August 13 at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough. Author and MacDowell Chair Michael Chabon will host and journalist and MacDowell Director J.T. Rogers will speak about Lynch’s contributions to cinema, providing context for the award.

Lynch is well known as the maker of such films as Eraserhead, The Elephant Man, Blue Velvet, Wild at Heart and Twin Peaks. For Wild At Heart, Lynch earned the 1990 Academy Award for Best Director. To date, he has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director five times and Best Original Screenplay three times. Lynch was awarded the Academy Award for Best Director in 2015 for his film Whiplash.

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As a longtime fan of Lynch’s work—from the moment he first took on my novel pathways as a seat in a theater at Playhouse, sometimes in 1990 or ’91, at a midnight screening of Eraserhead—as a Board member of the MacDowell Colony, whose Fellows have been rewiring brains all over the world for 110 years, I could not be more thrilled or more satisfied by Lynch’s selection.

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Busy Six Months for MacDowell Composers

Fellows Leave Peterborough and Return with Golden Lyre
Composer Philip Venouzelos (17) and opera director Ted Hoffius (17) took a two-day break from their spring residency to fly to London to accept a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for their adaptation of Satie’s ‘The Firamouz’ in 49.49 Parisian. The adaptation created for The Royal Opera House was nominated for best opera and best largescale composition, and won in the latter category. It had already won at the UK Theatre Awards for Adjudication in Opera. At MacDowell the pair collaborated on a new piece based on Larry Mitchell’s 1977 thrilling book of fables, “The Firamouz” and “Rwand” Between Revolutionaries.

Spheres is Latest Work from Robert Paterson

Composer Robert Paterson (90) is working on his latest work, “La Rose,” for the upcoming Moonglow Festival at NYU this week. It is the third of a quartet of works written for the New York Philharmonic that Paterson has composed since 2010. The work is based on the archives of art history slides that Paterson had recently acquired from the Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation (16) and the archives of art history slides that Paterson had recently acquired from the Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation (16). Paterson is also working on a new piece for orchestra, composed at MacDowell last summer, for the upcoming Moonglow Festival. The piece is based on the archives of art history slides that Paterson had recently acquired from the Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation (16).

The Art of Journalism as Practiced by Writer Jennifer Percy

Writer Jennifer Percy came to The MacDowell Colony in the summer of 2015 after spending a couple of months reporting in Iraq and Syria. She was drafted in a new anthology book and was working on several long pieces at the time. Percy continues to research and write about difficult subjects. She recently announced half a dozen Q&A’s about her journalism practice and her MacDowell residency.

Q: What are the major difficulties for you reporting deeply on the subject matter of places like Syria and Iraq?

Percy: The job of getting to come home when you’re too far to stay behind. I never met broadly people. They show stories and music, and lives with your own. Once you come back and you find you have something more than a story. You feel like you can’t move on to a new topic because if you do you’ll be abandoning them. It is an emotional part of being a reporter. The stories take place in the Middle East, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Black Sea. I have always felt that these stories were more than just a story. I remember the first time I went to Syria and Iraq, I felt communal. I think when everyone is doing the same thing the atmosphere can sometimes feel competitive. But this is a special time. It’s so important. Everyone is struggling to create something beautiful and meaningful and all that energy is contagious. I think when everyone is doing the same thing the atmosphere can sometimes feel competitive. But this is a special time.

Q: Do you have any specific methods for finding stories in places like Iraq and Syria? Once you’ve found a potential subject, how do you prepare for your reporting trip?

Percy: Since I’m based in the US I often first find my stories in the news. What I do on the ground usually are stories that I have to write about. These come about through interviews with locals, and even more so from translators who are very plugged in to what’s unfolding at any given time.

Q: Have the new challenges of funding long-form journalism changed the way you think about or approach other opportunities like residencies?

Percy: Absolutely. It’s wonderful that MacDowell is embracing long-form journalism. It takes just as much solitude, focus, and time as any other form and the opportunity to think of the written piece as it is to go into benefits all aspects of that writer’s life. Many words that people forget that the actual writing comes after months of research, weeks of transcription, dozens of interviews, hours of research. Finding time and space to write after all those months is a difficult task.

Q: How does the process of writing differ or benefit at a residency program?

Percy: Some journalists do much of their work in the field and write on a deadline but do not write until many weeks after. I prefer to write on the situation and, more importantly, I need time to return to this work... It’s different than newspaper writing. You don’t have the pressure to be timely in the way you would for a newspaper. I wrote MacDowell two weeks after return to Syria and Iraq. I finished two long-form pieces while I was there. It would have taken me three times as long if I were at home. The pieces took an incredible amount of time. It was hard knowing that what you write might be the last that they saw.

Q: MacDowell’s cultivation of different disciplines in one place is intentional. What effect has the residency program had on you as a writer?

Percy: It is important. Everyone is struggling to create something beautiful and meaningful and all that energy is contagious. I think when everyone is doing the same thing the atmosphere can sometimes feel competitive. But this is a special time.
In 2005, Carr left the University of Iowa before becoming the associate director at The MacDowell Colony. He was chairman of the art department at Harvard. In 1974, he was appointed as director of the Frontier Youth Program in Hancock, NH on March 23, 2017 at the age of 95. Pollaro was born in Brooklyn and attended Brandeis University in 1959 and was in residence in 1989. He earned a Doctor of Humane Letters from Lesley University. A civil rights and social justice worker, Karoff was a founding member of the Foundation for Urban Negro Workers. His first book, *The Making of an American Sea*, was released in March. The tour continues through November. Find out where she'll read from her satirical writing and answered questions about her life and writing.

Kate Carr | Sculptor Kate Carr died at home in Santa Fe, NM on April 17, 2017 of complications related to ovarian cancer. She was 67. Carr worked primarily with stone, wood, and metals. She was a member of the Studio School in Manhattan and later attended Columbia University. Carr worked as a model, reported on the postwar reorganization of Poland for a British news service, and taught emotionally vulnerable children in her residence in 1974. She wrote six novels for adults and more than 20 books for young people. Her best-known novel is *Deepwater Children* (1970), about the disintegration of a marriage. Almost all of Ford's work carried the message that anything could happen to anyone at any time. She was described by The Nation in 1984 as, "one of our most intelligent (and least appreciated) contemporary American novelists." Her last book, the memoir *The Other Side of the Canvas*, was released in 2016, sequels on found embroidery projects, fabric, embroidery floss, 25” x 20”.

**MORE NEW WORK**

*Pulitzer Prize*-winning, multi-platform company produced *Finding* by Arlene Weiner (89) in March and her second collection of poetry *Sky Bird* was published last fall by Regent City Press. Recent Allen Abstusions, the plays *Jorge Ignacio Cortina* (65), *16* worked on during his last residence, was produced by the Actor Theatre of Louisville (KY) in March. Artist Gelah Penn (89) had a one-person show at the Anne A. Wallace Gallery at SUNY Old Westbury called Situations and Polygyny in April.

Writer Jack Davis (14) wrote a chapter of *The Gulf* The Making of an American Sea during his residence. The book was released in March. A Woman, A Part, the new feature film from Elisabeth Subrin (64-14), which was conceived in MacDowell in 2011 and rewritten at a residency in early 2015, was released at the IFC Center in NYC in March.

Melissa Fehon (at right) (10, 11, 14) began touring in support of her second book of essays, *Assumptions, Me, in March. The tour continues this summer. Find out where she’ll be appearing on *The Portable MacDowell* portal.macdowell.org/writers/ melissa-fehon. **Garbel** (16), first book of poems, *At Burning Leaves*, was released in April. Poet Kathryn (6) released in April from the Benjamin Sllman award from Red Hen Press. Thaddue Rutkowski’s (95) latest book *Guns and God*. A collection of native nonfiction stories, was released in February. **Writer Michael Frank’s (96) memoir *The Mighty Franks* was published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in May. Why Time Is a Balloon Ducik (97-10) "mostly scientific investigation" into the nature of time and was released in January. Writer Carol Heibel (78, 77, 70) published A Woman Chronicles, a novel set against the backdrop of Poland’s adoption of martial law in 1981.

**Save the Dates**

• Medal Day Honoring David Lynch Sunday, August 13, 2017

For more information or to order your basket visit macdowellcolony.org/events/medal-day

• New Hampshire Benefit Saturday, November 18-19, 2017 Join us at this intimate annual fundraiser on the Colony grounds for an evening with friends, neighbors, patrons, and artists-in-residence for a delicious meal prepared by our world-class chefs. Tickets will be available in September. For more information contact Marissa Franklin at mfranklin@macdowellcolony.org

• Friends of MacDowell Member Trip to New Orleans November 15-19, 2017 Each year MacDowell escorts a group of enthusiastic supporters on a trip filled with art and art artists. This year’s trip, open to full Friends of MacDowell Members only, will explore the rich cultural history of the Big Easy and will feature one-of-a-kind interactions with MacDowell Colony Fellows and local artists. A few spots remain for guests – for more details or to sign up for the trip please contact Gwen Klinger at gtklinger@macdowellcolony.org

**Community Engagement**

In November, filmmaker Margaret Brown showed two short documentaries relevant to the 2016 presidential elections. The *Black Belt* and *Newer Trump: But Then What?* at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough. To open the 6th season in March, filmmaker Irene Gutierrez showed two short films and discussed her latest project. Border Drieries. In April, playwright Bissy Coy read from her satirical writing and answered questions about her life with *Border Diaries*.

Lena Dunham, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Michael Chabon.

*National Benefit in NYC Reaches $600,000 Goal*

On Monday, May 1, more than 300 MacDowell Colony Fellows and supporters gathered under the glittering glass canopies of Capitale in downtown Manhattan for the 2017 National Benefit. The Benefit is MacDowell’s largest annual fundraiser – and this year it raised a whopping $600,000 for the artist residency program. Board Chairman Michael Chabon hosted an evening that included powerful excerpts from his latest novel, *The Goldfinch*, with music by Tanya Leon (10) and a benefit for fellow Thulani Davis (89, 90, 92-93) by her husband Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. There was also a video reading from Honorary Chair Todd Haynes with some fascinating remarks about Brian Selznick (91), who penned the source material for Todtf’s latest film, *Wonderstruck*, and introduced an exclusive clip of the film at an upcoming Cannes Film Festival. Additionally, guests were lucky enough to see a widow from Israel, introduced by its playwright, Paula Vogel (66-11) and director, Rebecca Taichman (11), the night before it received multiple Tony Award nominations! The evening was capped off with a Dutch-style paddle drive, where Board Member David Baum rallied guests to raise $600,000 and then fire t o reward them for their generosity.

**Ta-Nehisi Coates, Lena Dunham, Michael Chabon Discussed Artist’s Role in World**

Journalist and National Book Award-winner Ta-Nehisi Coates (10) and bestselling author, feminist, and HBO showrunner Lena Dunham joined MacDowell Chairman of the Board and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon (95) on the stage of the 44th annual Chairman’s Evening at the New Museum on November 5, 2016. These iconic artists engaged in the kind of high-ostature conversation about creativity that takes place at the Colony every day. The conversation ranged from the genius of late New York Times columnist David Carr to the election of Donald Trump and the importance of art in a changing political climate. The evening included a Q&A session with the audience. You can see video of the entire program at vimeo.com/themacdowellcolony.

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FELLOWSHIPS

MacDowell’s holistic approach to its program, from studio renovations to staffing to expanding community engagement to the care and feeding of artists, has resulted in a record 304 reviewed by April 2017, we welcomed 152 artists from 28 states and nine countries, including 63 writers, 23 visual artists, 20 theatre artists, 19 film/video artists, 14 composers, 11 interdisciplinary artists, and two architects.

ALEX ABRAMOWITZ, Writer
Astoria, NY
SANDRA ALLEN, Writer
New York, NY
KRISTIN ALLIO, Writer
Phoenix, AZ
BRIAN ARNOLD, Visual Artist
Brooklandttdale, MD
ALICE ATTIE, Visual Artist
New York, NY
NY BALDWIN, Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY
ANNE BEAL, Film/Video Artist
Chicago, IL
AMY BEECHER, Interdisciplinary Artist
Pennsylvania, RI
AMY BLOOM, Writer
Bradford, CT
GREGORY BROWN, Writer
Casco, ME
MARGARET BROWN, Film/Video Artist
Mobile, AL
ESSIE CHAMBERS, Writer
Brooklyn, NY
SHAHON CHARIDE, Writer
Lakeville, CT
CATHERINE CHUNG, Writer
New York, NY
KELLI CONNELL, Visual Artist
Chicago, IL
VIA CARTHON, Theatre Artist
New York, NY
BIZZY COY, Theatre Artist
Yulan, NY
CHRISTINA DAVIS, Writer
Cambridge, MA
LISA LORNE DAVIS, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY
PHIL DAWKINS, Theatre Artist
Minneapolis, MN
JAMES LAPINE, Theatre Artist
Portland, OR
JULIAN KREIMER, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY
MARGARET KIMBALL, Writer
Indianapolis, IN
BARA JICHOVA TYSON, Film/Video Artist; Brooklyn, NY
BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS, Theatre Artist; New York, NY
ALISON PICK, Writer
New Orleans, LA
JAMES MARCUS, Writer
New York, NY
THERESA HACKETT, Visual Artist
New York, NY
ERTE HICKS, Composer
New York, NY
MAXIMILIAN HOPP, Visual Artist
New York, NY
TOM ROSENBERG, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY
KELLI CONNELL, Visual Artist
Chicago, IL
VIA CARTHON, Theatre Artist
New York, NY
BIZZY COY, Theatre Artist
Yulan, NY
CHRISTINA DAVIS, Writer
Cambridge, MA
LISA LORNE DAVIS, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY
PHIL DAWKINS, Theatre Artist
Minneapolis, MN
JAMES LAPINE, Theatre Artist
Portland, OR
JULIAN KREIMER, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY
MARGARET KIMBALL, Writer
Indianapolis, IN
BARA JICHOVA TYSON, Film/Video Artist; Brooklyn, NY
BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS, Theatre Artist; New York, NY
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New Orleans, LA
JAMES MARCUS, Writer
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THERESA HACKETT, Visual Artist
New York, NY
ERTE HICKS, Composer
New York, NY
MAXIMILIAN HOPP, Visual Artist
New York, NY
TOM ROSENBERG, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

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

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