

MacDowell

FREEDOM TO CREATE

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IN THIS ISSUE

J.T.Rogers, Rebecca Taichman, Mimi Lien Win Tonys Among 54 Nominations	2
David Lynch Named 58th Edward MacDowell Medalist	3
Pulitzers Awarded to Three Fellows	3
Range of Honors to MacDowell Composers	4

ARCHITECTS | COMPOSERS | FILMMAKERS | INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTISTS | THEATRE ARTISTS | VISUAL ARTISTS | WRITERS



Artists

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

An Abundance of Talent



Cheryl with Resident Director David Macy

As you can see in this newsletter, MacDowell is everywhere. From the Tonys to the *Times*, work by Fellows is being published, produced, exhibited, performed, and enjoyed! We are especially proud that this year we were able to award more than 300 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 its 65 directors are artists. In May we elected Andy Senchak as board president following on the six-year tenure of Susan Davenport Austin. Susan presided over some amazing advances, beginning with the transition of the chairmanship from Robert MacNeil to Michael Chabon in 2010, guiding new fundraising strategies, and the Herculean search for new quarters in New York. It was clear Susan was going to be a 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 broadening our community of support to reflect the diversity 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 three of the newest staff members: Stacey Bosworth, 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 Edward MacDowell Medalist, and be sure to stop by our Manhattan offices on West 23rd Street this autumn.

Cheryl A. Young, *Executive Director*

» NEW FACES:



Andrew Senchak
Board President



Stacey Bosworth
Director of Development



Andrew Zimmerman
Financial and Human Resources Administrator



Jan Kingsbury
Cook

New Chelsea 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, and much greater visibility and access for artists and the community at large. The purchase was embraced by the board and donors who saw the opportunity as a natural next step for the Colony, a national organization with roots firmly in New York City. The MacDowell Club of New York first met at Carnegie Hall in 1905. By 1909, the Club was granted studio space at The Metropolitan Opera House on West 39th Street, remaining there until 1911 when it purchased quarters at 108 West 55th (pictured above with Marian MacDowell center-left). Club membership grew to 600 within a few years and the location worked for exhibitions and presentations until 1924 when a move to 166 East 73rd provided a home for another 29 years. The Colony was built with support from New York Club members and more than 300 clubs around the U.S. The NY Club disbanded in 1942, and in 1944, MacDowell moved to offices at The National Academy of Design at 1083 Fifth Avenue where we remained until 1973. We then spent two years on West 58th Street followed by four at 680 Park Avenue at the Americas Society. In 1981, we purchased our East 81st Street office, expanding it in 1997 to 1,000 sq. ft. MacDowell’s capacity to help artists has grown in wonderful ways in the last 110 years requiring more staff and volunteers. There are more than 1,500 MacDowell Fellows in New York City alone, and thousands of supporters who we hope will visit.

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

Just before going to press we learned that **J.T. Rogers, Rebecca Taichman, and Mimi Lien** picked up individual Tony Awards on June 11. They were among 10 awards handed out to Fellow work from among eight plays that collectively earned 54 Tony nominations! Here are the shows and how they fared:

Oslo, by **J.T. Rogers** (07) won the Best Play award for Rogers and a Best Actor in a Featured Role award. It earned seven nominations.

Indecent, by **Paula Vogel** (5x 82-11) earned three nominations. It won Best Direction of a Play for **Rebecca Taichman** (11) and Best Lighting Design. The pair collaborated on the play while at MacDowell.



J.T. Rogers



Rebecca Taichman (left) and Paula Vogel

Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812, book and music by **Dave Malloy** (16), won two Tonys, including Best Scenic Design of a Musical for **Mimi Lien** (12) and Best Lighting Design. It earned 12 nominations, Best Orchestrations, Best Book, and Best Original Score by Malloy, among them.

Hello, Dolly, based on the **Thornton Wilder** (9x 24-53) short story “The Merchant of Yonkers” earned four Tony Awards among 11 nominations.

Anastasia, book by **Terrence McNally** (10) earned two nominations.

Falsettos, directed by and book by **James Lapine** (6x 01-09) earned five nominations.

Groundhog Day, the Musical, book by **Danny Rubin** (11) earned 7 nominations, including Best Book of a Musical for Rubin.

War Paint, created by **Doug Wright** (4x 93-11), **Michael Korie** (10x 86-11), and **Scott Frankel** (98, 05, 11), while at MacDowell earned seven nominations.

Grawemeyer Award Goes to Andrew Norman

Composer **Andrew Norman** (5x 08-14) won the 2017 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition by the University of Louisville in late November. The prize, which includes \$100,000, was awarded to Norman’s composition *Play*, a 47-minute orchestral piece commissioned by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP). *Play* premiered in 2013 and BMOP released an acclaimed recording of the work in 2015. *The New York Times* called the piece a “rollicking, gaming-influenced orchestral work.”



Andrew Norman



David Lynch

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 Chairman **Michael Chabon** will host and journalist and Lynch biographer **Kristine McKenna** will speak about Lynch and his 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: Fire Walk With Me*. As recipient of the 58th annual Edward MacDowell Medal in the Arts, he joins past medal recipients such as Aaron Copland (1961), Robert Frost (1962), Georgia O’Keeffe (1972), Stan Brakhage (1989), Joan Didion (1996), Chuck Jones (1997), Les Blank (2007), Stephen Sondheim (2013), Betye Saar (2014), and Toni Morrison (2016). MacDowell, one of the nation’s leading contemporary arts centers, has awarded the medal annually since 1960 to an artist who has made an outstanding contribution to American culture.

“David Lynch is not only a gifted filmmaker, he’s worked as a committed painter and photographer both before and after his breakout films, and that wide-ranging artistic dedication made him a natural choice for the MacDowell medal,” said author and film critic **Kenneth Turan**, chair of the Edward MacDowell Medal Selection Panel and a 2006 MacDowell Fellow. “There are not many directors whose names have come to indicate an entire worldview, but when we say something is ‘Lynchian’ everyone knows what we mean.”

Turan is film critic for the *Los Angeles Times* and National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition” as well as the director of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes. His most recent books are *Never Coming to a Theater Near You* and *Free For All: Joe Papp, The Public and The Greatest Theater Story Ever Told*, which he worked on at MacDowell. Joining Turan on the selection panel were David Ansen, senior programmer at the Palm Springs International Film Festival and former *Newsweek* film critic; Laura Kim, senior vice president of film marketing at Participant Media; and Josh Siegel, curator of The Museum of Modern Art’s film department.

“Great art reconfigures the circuitry of your brain, permanently altering your way of looking at and seeing the world, and for the past 40 years the work of David Lynch has been messing with our collective minds,” said Chabon. “As a longtime fan of his work—from the moment he first took over my neural pathways as I sat in a seat at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, sometime in 1980 or ’81, at a midnight showing of *Eraserhead*—and as Chairman of the Board of MacDowell, 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.”

Lynch, subject of the new documentary *David Lynch: The Art Life* as well as the upcoming biography by McKenna, is not expected to attend.

Chabon will present the Medal along with MacDowell Board President Andrew M. Senchak, Executive Director Cheryl Young, and Resident Director David Macy. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 13, 2017, beginning at 12:15 p.m. at The MacDowell Colony grounds at 100 High Street in Peterborough, New Hampshire. It is the one day each year the Colony is open to the public. Guests can enjoy picnic lunches on Colony grounds by pre-ordering or bringing their own. Open studios hosted by MacDowell artists-in-residence begin at 2 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. (More information can be found at macdowellcolony.org)

There is no charge to attend Medal Day. This public arts event is made possible with the support of Medal Day Corporate Partner the Lincoln Financial Foundation.

David Lynch Filmography: *Eraserhead* (1977), *The Elephant Man* (1980), *Dune* (1984), *Blue Velvet* (1986), *Wild at Heart* (1990), *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* (1992), *Lost Highway* (1997), *The Straight Story* (1999), *Mulholland Dr.* (2001), and *INLAND EMPIRE* (2006).



Tyehimba Jess

Pulitzer Prizes to Three

Congratulations to poet **Tyehimba Jess** (15) who won a Pulitzer Prize for his poetry collection *Olio*. Tyehimba came to MacDowell in the summer of 2015 to work on final edits for *Olio*. The Pulitzer Board recognized *Olio* as “a distinctive work” that explores collective memory and challenges contemporary notions of race and identity.

Colson Whitehead’s (99, 11) *The Underground Railroad* won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. The selection committee called it “a smart melding of realism and allegory that combines the violence of slavery and the drama of escape in a myth that speaks to contemporary America.”

Finally, congratulations to journalist **Neil MacFarquhar** (06) who is part of *The New York Times* team who won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for “agenda-setting reporting on Vladimir Putin’s efforts to project Russia’s power abroad, revealing techniques that included assassination, online harassment, and the planting of incriminating evidence on opponents.”

Composer **Kate Soper** (13), theatre artist **Taylor Mac** (MF 14), and writer **Adam Haslett** (5x 99-12) were finalists in music, theatre, and fiction.



Peter Jachym with LOA donation.

52 Titles Donated to Colony by Library of America

Thanks to a gift from MacDowell Board Member Peter Jachym and the vision of Fellow **Honor Moore** (10x 77-17), the Library of America donated 52 volumes written by Fellows, MacDowell Medalists, or edited by Fellows to Savidge Library, filling many gaps on the Colony’s shelves.

The collection includes volumes by **James Baldwin**, **Willa Cather**, **Thornton Wilder**, and **Wendy Wasserstein**. There are also many volumes by Edward MacDowell Medalists such as Philip Roth and John Updike, and poetry collections edited by numerous MacDowell Fellows.

Two Fellows Screen at Tribeca Film Festival

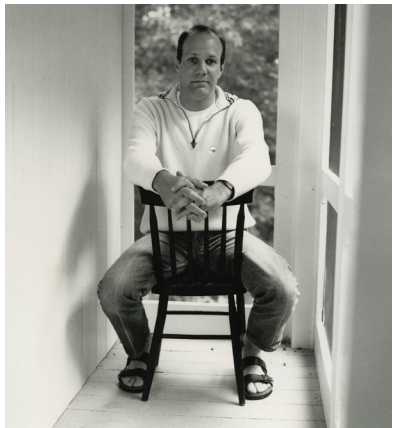
Derek Simonds (09), screenwriter of *The Sinner*, a psychological thriller, and **Lana Wilson** (17), director of *The Departure*, a feature documentary she worked on during her recent residency, screened their latest works at the Tribeca Film Festival in April.

News

Artists



Ann Patchett



Henri Cole



Melinda Wagner

American Academy Elects Four Fellows to Membership

Four Fellows were inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters during its May ceremony. Poet **Henri Cole** (92, 07) and writer **Ann Patchett** (96) have been elected for literature, and composers **Melinda Wagner** (86, 88, 91, 01) and **Julia Wolfe** (89) were elected for music, joining the group of 250 architects, composers, visual artists and writers with life memberships. The society also handed out awards and prizes, and purchased works to be donated to museums.

Hersch Nominated for Jazz Grammy

Jazz composer **Fred Hersch** (8x 00-17) was nominated for two Grammys in late 2016: Best Jazz Instrumental Album for *Sunday Night At The Vanguard* with The Fred Hersch Trio, and Best Improvised Jazz Solo for “We See” from that album.

Terminals II Premieres

Bobby Previte's (9x 00-13) *Rhapsody (Terminals Part II: In Transit)* premiered at The Hermitage's Greenfield Prize weekend in April and was performed by New Music New College as part of their ongoing annual music festival.

Busy Six Months for MacDowell Composers

Fellows Leave Peterborough and Return with Golden Lyre

Composer **Philip Venables** (17) and opera director **Ted Huffman** (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 Sarah Kane's play *4.48 Psychosis*. The adaptation created for the Royal Opera House was nominated for best opera and best large scale composition, and won in the latter category. It had already won the UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Opera. At MacDowell the pair collaborated on a new piece based on Larry Mitchell's 1977 trailblazing book of fables *The Faggots and Their Friends Between Revolutions*.



Venables and Huffman

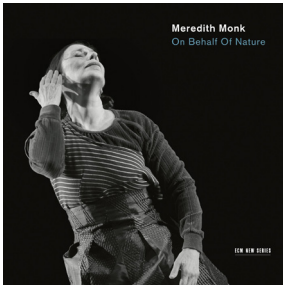


Spheres is Latest Work from Robert Paterson

Robert Paterson's (03) latest work *Spheres*, released in January, features the Claremont Trio of Emily Bruskin, Julia Bruskin, and Andrea Lam. The album consists of three works related to celestial bodies that are “intensely evocative both of this theme and of earthly humanity.” The individual pieces reference and quote music on the Golden Record that was included with the Voyager Spacecraft, along with playful imagery of how that music decays with the craft's plutonium fuel as the spacecraft exits our solar system.

Meredith Monk's Latest Compositions Receive Critical Acclaim

The New York Times, *Pitchfork*, and *The New Yorker* all had high praise for *On Behalf of Nature*, the latest album from **Meredith Monk** (7x 87- 07), and her performances of the new work. According to pitchfork's Seth Cotler Wells, “*On Behalf of Nature* is a plea for ecological awareness with no lectures, just beauty and empathy... Monk's vocal instrument remains the envy of singers 50 years her junior. But on *Nature*, the uniqueness of her compositional vision is just as impressive.”



Dubugnon Orchestral Work Premieres in Rome

Composer **Richard Dubugnon's** (10, 16) *Caprice Romain* for orchestra, composed at MacDowell last summer, premiered in Rome in April with the Orchestra dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia under its chief conductor Sir Antonio Pappano. He also released *Arcanes Symphoniques*, a CD of new work recorded by Orchestre National De France.

Agócs Composition Nominated for Juno

Kati Agócs (01) was nominated for a Juno Award for Classical Composition of the Year in Canada. The nominated piece for chorus and orchestra is *The Debreceen Passion* from the album by the same name on the BMOP/sound label.

Two Fellows Among Nine 2016 Copland House Residents

Mark Kilstofte (95, 07) and **Peter Van Zandt Lane** (13, 14) are among nine composers from nine states selected for upcoming Copland House Residency Awards. The residencies take place at **Aaron Copland's** (8x 25-56) National Historic Landmark home in Peekskill, NY.

More Accolades

Filmmaker **Michael Almereyda** (04) was presented with the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize and \$20,000 from the Sundance Institute for his film *Marjorie Prime*. The award is granted to an outstanding feature film about science or technology.

A 2017 Pollock Krasner grant to visual artist **Jessica Segall** (13).

Joan Frank's (90, 99) latest novel, *All the News I Need*, was winner of the 2016 Juniper Prize for Fiction.

Poet **Sarah Holland-Batt's** (13, 16) collection *The Hazards*, worked on at MacDowell in 2013, received Australia's prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry for 2016 .

Photographer **Vesna Pavlovic** (16) received The George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellowship for her “Art History Archive” project, which explores the archives of art history slides she has collected over the years.

Two Fellows Earn National Book Critics Circle Awards

Writer **Louise Erdrich** (80) won a National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction for her latest novel *LaRose*. The story takes place on a Native American reservation where a father of five accidentally shoots and kills his neighbor's son. According to custom, the father must give the family his own young son to create justice. Other Fellows in the running for the prize included **Michael Chabon** (13x 96-15) for his latest novel *Moonglow*, **Adam Haslett** (5x 99-12) for *Imagine Me Gone*, and **Ann Patchett** (96) for *Commonwealth*.

Writer **Ruth Franklin** (14) won a National Book Critics Circle Award for her biography, *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life*. The biography depicts the 48-year life of the famous midcentury writer.

Three other Fellows earned nominations: Poets **Tyehimba Jess** (15) for his collection *Olio* and **Monica Youn** (06, 11) for her collection *Blackacre*, and writer **Olivia Laing** (11) for her book of criticism *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone*.



Ruth Franklin



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 drafting a new nonfiction book and working on several long-form articles based on that reporting. Her first book, *Demon Camp: A Soldier's Exorcism*, looks into the effects of PTSD, both on individual soldiers and the communities they inhabit once back from war. Percy continues to research and write about difficult subjects. She recently answered half a dozen questions about her journalistic 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 guilt of getting to come home when everyone you've met has to stay behind. I met so many lovely people. They share stories and meals and lives with you. You come back and you feel you owe them 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. ... An Iraqi texted me during his escape journey across the Mediterranean Sea. He kept asking what to do if something happened. ... One of the men I wrote about in Syria, an American from Ohio, returned to the fight this year and was killed outside Raqqa. Someone e-mailed me to let me know. It's hard knowing that what you write might be the thing that outlasts them....

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 U.S. I'll often first find my stories in the news.... When I'm on the ground I usually encounter more stories than I have time 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 art is going to benefit all aspects of that writer's life. What many people forget is 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 many do not. I never write until many weeks after I return. I need to reflect on the situation and, more importantly, I need time to return to this world. ... It's different than newspaper writing. You don't have the pressure to be timely in the way you would for a newspaper. I went to MacDowell two weeks after my trip 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 focus and isolation to get right.

Q: MacDowell's cultivation of different disciplines in one place is intentional. What effect has the wide range of disciplines had on your work?

Percy: 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 felt communal....

Q: What one aspect of your experience here at The MacDowell Colony will stick with you?

Percy: I have a hard time waking up early. At MacDowell I had no problem. I was so excited to start my day. The meals were key. I loved meeting up with everyone for delicious meals. I got to wake up every day to a homemade breakfast with a flower from the garden set next to the eggs. It sounds ridiculous but I'll never forget those flowers. I felt nurtured and cared for and it made all the difference.

Jennifer Percy is a contributing editor at New Republic and is the author of the nonfiction book Demon Camp: A Soldier's Exorcism, which was a New York Times Notable Book of 2014 and a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick. Read the entire Q&A at portablemacdowell.org/#news

Two Fellows Receive Creative Capital Awards

Writer **Eileen Myles** (96, 09, 14) won a Creative Capital Award in Literature for her work on *My Travels*, a series of essays that tell Myles' life story through specific experiences in Boston, New York, India, Russia and Ireland.

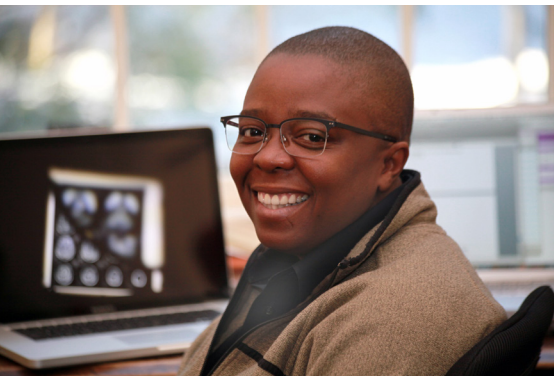
Interdisciplinary Artist **Peter Burr** (08) won a Creative Capital Award in Emerging Fields for his work on *Aria End*, a digital artwork that draws on video game design and how we navigate through the digital world.



Cynthia Lowen

Cynthia Lowen (15), the co-creator and producer of the Emmy-nominated film *Bully*, is in post-production on her next feature documentary, *Netizens*. Lowen says she started work on the project at MacDowell in March of 2015. The film is about women and online harassment. Lowen's film *Bully* was released theatrically by The Weinstein Company in 2012 to critical acclaim.

Artist **Eric Rhein** (96, 99) and photographer **Zoe Leonard** (02) were honored in May by Visual AIDS with Vanguard Awards alongside Sur Rodney (Sur) for their contributions to AIDS awareness through artwork and activism. The Visual AIDS Vanguard Awards (VAVA) recognize individuals who “strengthen the cultural history of art, AIDS and activism in our community.”



Yance Ford

Filmmaker **Yance Ford** (12) was presented with the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Storytelling at the Sundance Film Festival for her film *Strong Island*, a documentary that depicts the violent death of Ford's brother and the judicial system that failed to convict the killer.

Two Fellows, **Jonathan Louie** (16) of Architecture Office and **Greg Corso** (16) of Sports, were among architects at six firms given the 2017 Architectural League of New York Young Architects Award.

Artists

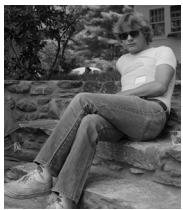
Remembering



Kate Carr | Sculptor **Kate Carr** died at home in Santa Fe, NM on April 27, 2017 of complications related to ovarian cancer. She was 40. Carr, who was in residence in 2010, moved from Anchorage, AK to Vermont in 1995 to attend Marlboro College. She met her partner poet **Jenny George** (15) in 1999 and earned an M.F.A. in sculpture from the University of Iowa in 2005. Carr let the forms of her sculptures be guided by the properties of their materials and she had solo exhibitions in New York, Dallas, Marfa, and Santa Fe. She received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2010, and was a resident artist at the Ucross Foundation, the Jentel Artist Residency Program, and the Harwood Museum.

Paula Fox | Writer **Paula Fox** died in Brooklyn on March 1, 2017. She was 93. She studied piano briefly at the Juilliard School in Manhattan and later attended Columbia University. Fox worked as a model, reported on the postwar reconstruction of Poland for a British news service, and taught emotionally challenged children. She was in residence in 1974. Fox wrote six novels for adults and more than 20 books for young people. Her best-known novel is *Desperate Characters* (1970), about the disintegration of a marriage. Almost all of Fox'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 novelists." She was awarded the Newbery Medal in 1974 for *The Slave Dancer*, and won the Hans Christian Anderson Award in 1978.

Peter Karoff | Poet and philanthropist **Peter Karoff** died in his Santa Barbara, CA home from pancreatic cancer on March 9, 2017. He was 79. Karoff graduated from Brandeis University in 1959 and was in residence in 1989. He earned an M.F.A. from Columbia University at the age of 51, and received an honorary 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 Development in Boston. He also founded The Philanthropic Initiative, a nonprofit consulting firm that matched wealth to need in underserved communities and populations. His poetry has been published and anthologized by numerous journals. He taught philanthropy and poetry at the University of California, Santa Barbara and was on the board of more than 30 nonprofit organizations.



Thomas Lux | Poet and educator **Thomas Lux** died of cancer on February 5, 2017 in Atlanta. He was 70. He was in residence six times between 1973 and 1982. He attended Emerson College, and spent a year completing graduate work at the University of Iowa before returning to Emerson to teach. He also spent time teaching at Columbia College in Chicago, Oberlin College, 27 years at Sarah Lawrence College, and in 2002 became the Bourne professor of poetry and director of the McEver Visiting Writers Program at Georgia Institute of Technology. "One time he said to me, 'You know, I would pay to teach.' He put his heart and soul into it," said John Skoyles, a friend and poet. Lux's poetry was published by several magazines including *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*. His last collection, *To the Left of Time*, appeared in 2016. His final months were spent editing a poetry collection by **Bill Knott**, who died in 2014.

Taylor Morris | Author **Taylor Morris** died in his home in Peterborough on March 24, 2017 at the age of 94. He was in residence 10 times between 1966 and 1978. A New Orleans native and graduate of Tulane University, Morris moved to New York where he received a master's degree in 17th century literature. He wrote an autobiographical memoir, *All the Clouds'll Roll Away*, based on his life in New Orleans and experience in the Marine Corps as a dive bomber and night fighter. He was an English professor at Franklin Pierce College for almost 30 years. His first book, *The Walk of the Conscious Ants*, was based on the educational significance of the walk-study course he designed. He led his wife, two eldest children, and 17 college students on a semester-long 600-mile walk from Rindge, NH to Nova Scotia. He led several more walks throughout his tenure at FPU.

Paul Philip Pollaro | Visual artist **Paul Philip Pollaro** died at his home in Hancock, NH on March 23, 2017 at the age of 95. Pollaro was born in Brooklyn and studied at the Art Students League, The New York School, and Flat Iron School in New York. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. He worked for Warner Bros. and taught at Notre Dame University and The New School. Pollaro, who was in residence 10 times between 1964 and 1992, was well known for his textural and colorful abstract collages. He was chairman of the art department at Wagner College before becoming the associate director at The MacDowell Colony from 1973-1977. Reviews of his work have appeared in many major publications and his works are included in major national museums and university collections.

Elizabeth Sargent | Poet **Elizabeth Sargent** died in New York on April 10, 2017 at the age of 96. She was in residence in 1964, the same year she completed her first book of poetry, *The African Boy*. Sargent spent more than four decades living in a studio above Carnegie Hall until she was the last tenant forced out of the apartment in 2010. In 1977 she wrote *A Woman in Love*, a novel based on her life. She also published poems in *The New Yorker* and *Cosmopolitan* magazines. Her writing was known for its honest depictions of sexuality and slant rhymes. She studied theater at the Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Mellon University).



RISD Museum Acquires Larry Krone Work

The Rhode Island School of Design Museum has purchased **Larry Krone's** (11, 12) *Then and Now (Circles: Coreopsis Moonbeams, Irises, Poppies, Forest Road)*, 2016, sequins on found embroidery projects, fabric, embroidery floss, 25" X 25".

MORE NEW WORKS

Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company produced *Findings* by **Arlene Weiner** (08) in March and her second collection of poetry *City Bird* was published last fall by Ragged Sky Press.

Recent Alien Abductions, the play **Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas** (06, 16) worked on during his last residence, was produced by the Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY) in March.

Artist **Gelah Penn** (89) had a one-person show at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery at SUNY Old Westbury called *Situations and Polyglots* in April.

Writer **Jack Davis** (14) wrote a chapter of *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* during his residency. The book was released in March.

A Woman, A Part, the new feature film from **Elisabeth Subrin** (5x 02-14), 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 Febos: (at right) (10, 11, 14) began touring in support of her second book of essays, *Abandon Me*, in March. The tour continues through this summer. Find out where she'll be appearing on The Portable MacDowell portablemacdowell.org/#artists/melissa-febos.

Gabriel Jesiolowski's (16) first book of poems, *As Burning Leaves*, was released in April and won the Benjamin Saltman award from Red Hen Press.

Thaddeus Rutkowski's (95) latest book *Guess and Check*, a collection of creative nonfiction stories, was released in February.

Writer **Michael Frank's** (99) memoir *The Mighty Franks* was published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in May.

Why Time Flies is **Alan Burdick's** (6x 97-10) "mostlly scientific investigation" into the nature of time and was released in January.

Writer **Carol Hebard** (76, 77, 78, 10) published *A Warsaw Chronicle*, a novel set against the backdrop of Poland's advent of martial law in 1981.



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 ceiling 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 the new opera *Little Rock Nine*, with music by **Tania Leon** (16) and a libretto by Fellow **Thulani Davis** (89, 90, 92 93) with research by Henry Louis Gates Jr. There was also a video greeting from Honorary Chair Todd Haynes with some flattering remarks about **Brian Selznick** (09), who penned the source material for Todd's latest film, *Wonderstruck*, and introduced an exclusive clip of the film ahead of its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. Additionally, guests were lucky enough to watch a scene from *Indecent*, introduced by its playwright, **Paula Vogel** (6x 82-11) and director, **Rebecca Taichman** (11), the night before it received multiple Tony Award nominations! The evening was capped off with a Dutch-style pledge drive, where Board Member David Baum rallied guests to raise \$60,000 and then ate fire to reward them for their generosity!



The cast of *Little Rock Nine* after their performance.

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 4, 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 chef. 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 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 Dean Klingler at dklingler@macdowellcolony.org

Community Engagement



Lisa Corinne Davis

MACDOWELL IN THE SCHOOLS

Since 1996, this program has been bringing the creative process to the classroom, and from November through April, the following MacDowell Fellows volunteered their time to visit various Contoocook Valley Regional High School classes: playwright **Andrea Thome**, poet **Gabriel Jesiolowski**, poet **Jean Valentine**,

painter **Lisa Corinne Davis** (left), poet **Sharon Charde**, visual artist **Colette Fu**, and fiction writer **Gregory Brown**.

MACDOWELL DOWNTOWN

In November, filmmaker **Margaret Brown** showed two short documentaries relevant to the 2016 presidential elections: *The Black Belt* and *'Never Trump.'* *But Then What?* at The Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough. To open the 2017 season in March, filmmaker **Irene Gutierrez** showed two short films and discussed her latest project *Border Diaries*. In April, playwright **Bizzy Coy** read from her satirical writing and answered questions about her work.

MARIPOSA, LEADERSHIP NH

In November, author **Mary Catherine Bateson** discussed "Why Inclusion Matters" and "Love

Ta-Nehisi Coates, Lena Dunham, Michael Chabon Discuss 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** 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. 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.



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



Fellow **Lisa Howorth**, Fellow **Andrea Cohen**, Fellow **Kathryn Stockett**, Darrell Crawford, Fellow **Wyatt Williams** at Chairman's Evening reception.

Across Difference: Parts and Partners," at the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough. In December writer **T. Kira Madden** participated in a panel discussion following the public screening of the Art21 installment *Chicago* at ConVal High School's Lucy Hurlin Theater. At MacDowell's holiday celebration that month, composer **Randy Ingraham** performed.

In March, composer **Fred Hersch** played a few of his recent piano compositions for the civic group Leadership New Hampshire at their annual meeting in the Colony's Eugene Coleman Savidge Library.

In April, writer **Ayelet Waldman** visited the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough and read from her latest book, *A Really Good Day*. Resident Director **David Macy** gave a presentation about the Colony at RiverMead lifecare community.

Events

» 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 fellowships in 2016. From November 2016 through 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 ABRAMOVICH, Writer
Astoria, NY

SANDRA ALLEN, Writer
New York, NY

KIRSTIN ALLIO, Writer
Providence, RI

BRIAN ARNOLD, Visual Artist
Brooktondale, NY

ALICE ATTIE, Visual Artist
New York City, NY

IVY BALDWIN, Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

ANNE BEAL, Film/Video Artist
Chicago, IL

AMY BEECHER, Interdisciplinary Artist
Providence, RI

AMY BLOOM, Writer
Branford, CT

GREGORY BROWN, Writer
Casco, ME

MARGARET BROWN, Film/Video Artist
Mobile, AL

ESSIE CHAMBERS, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

SHARON CHARDE, Writer
Lakeville, CT

CATHERINE CHUNG, Writer
New York, NY

KELLI CONNELL, Visual Artist
Chicago, IL

KIA CORTHRON, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

BIZZY COY, Theatre Artist
Yulan, NY

CHRISTINA DAVIS, Writer
Cambridge, MA

LISA CORINNE DAVIS, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

PHILIP DAWKINS, Theatre Artist
Chicago, IL

JAQUIRA DIAZ, Writer
Gambier, OH

IAN DICKE, Composer
Claremont, CA

JOELLE DIETRICK, Visual Artist
Davidson, NC

KRISTIN DOMBEK, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

TRAVIS DORSEY, Writer
New York, NY

HUGO DOS SANTOS, Writer
Flemington, NJ

ANDREA DUPREE, Writer
Thornton, CO

ELISE ENGLER, Visual Artist
New York, NY

JIM FINDLAY, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

SAMAR FITZGERALD, Writer
Staunton, VA

DIONNE FORD, Writer
Montclair, NJ

ELLEN FORNEY, Writer
Seattle, WA

SALLY FRANSON, Writer
Minneapolis, MN

COLETTE FU, Visual Artist
Philadelphia, PA

FRANCESCA FUCHS, Visual Artist
Houston, TX

JOHN GIANVITO, Film/Video Artist
Sharon, MA

KEELAY GIPSON, Theatre Artist
Astoria, NY

REBECCA GODFREY, Writer
Red Hook, NY

ALENA GRAEDON, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

LAUREN GROFF, Writer
Gainesville, FL

IRENE GUTIERREZ TORRES, Film/
Video Artist; Granada, Spain

YOTAM HABER, Composer
New Orleans, LA

THERESA HACKETT, Visual Artist
New York, NY

MASHA HAMILTON, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

JOSHUA HARMON, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

ALESHEA HARRIS, Theatre Artist
Valencia, CA

MICHAEL HARVKEY, Writer
Haverhill, MA

TRAVIS HEAD, Visual Artist
Blacksburg, VA

JOHANNES HELDEN, Interdisciplinary
Artist; Stockholm, Sweden

FRED HERSCH, Composer
New York, NY

LAUREN HILGERS, Writer
New York, NY

DAMARIS HILL, Writer
Lexington, KY

SANDRA HUNTER, Writer
Simi Valley, CA

ADAM HURWITZ, Visual Artist
New York, NY

RANDY INGRAM, Composer
Brooklyn, NY

NAOMI JACKSON, Writer
New York, NY

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS, Theatre
Artist; Brooklyn, NY

GABRIEL JESIOLOWSKI, Writer
Akron, OH

BARA JICHOVA TYSON, Film/Video
Artist; Brooklyn, NY

TAYARI JONES, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

HILLARY JORDAN, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

ILYA KAMINSKY, Writer
La Mesa, CA

CHARLIE KAUFMAN, Writer
Pasadena, CA

MARGARET KIMBALL, Writer
Indianapolis, IN

SELENA KIMBALL, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

COLLEEN KINDER, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

TOM KITT, Composer
New York, NY

JOANNA KLINK, Writer
Missoula, MT

JENJI KOHAN, Film/Video Artist
Los Angeles, CA

MICHAEL KORIE, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

JULIAN KREIMER, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

AMY LAM, Interdisciplinary Artist
Toronto, Canada

H. LAN THAO LAM, Visual Artist
New York, NY

JAMES LAPINE, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

LEI LEI, Film/Video Artist
Chaoyang Beijing, China

ELLEN LESPERANCE, Visual Artist
Portland, OR

JOHN LIBERATORE, Composer
South Bend, IN

DAVID LICATA, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

JOAN LINDER, Visual Artist
Buffalo, NY

JOSHUA LOCY, Film/Video Artist
Los Angeles, CA

DAVE MADDEN, Writer
San Francisco, CA

T KIRA MADDEN, Writer
New York, NY

JAMES MARCUS, Writer
New York, NY

JONATHON MCCURLEY,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Toronto, Canada

SHANE MECKLENBURGER,
Interdisciplinary Artist
New York, NY

WADZANAI MHUTE, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

FATIMA MIRZA, Writer
Iowa City, IA

HONOR MOORE, Writer
New York, NY

DAAIMAH MUBASHSHIR, Theatre
Artist; Union City, NJ

MEGAN MURTHA, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

KAMALA NAIR, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

CAROLYN O'BRIEN, Composer
Evanston, IL

BOLAJI ODOFIN, Writer
Lagos, Nigeria

JENNIFER OFFILL, Writer
Red Hook, NY

HELEN O'LEARY, Visual Artist
Jersey City, NJ

KAREN OSTROM, Interdisciplinary
Artist; New Haven, CT

NELL PAINTER, Writer
Newark, NJ

GARY PETERSEN, Visual Artist
Hoboken, NJ

TOM PIAZZA, Writer
New Orleans, LA

ALISON PICK, Writer
Toronto, Ontario, CANADA

KALA PIERSON, Composer
Haverford, PA

ROBERT PLOWMAN, Theatre Artist
Halifax, Canada

CHARLES POEKEL, Film/Video Artist
Essex Fells, NJ

LAURA POITRAS, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

TOM QUACH, Writer, Santa Ana, CA

RONEN RAZ, Visual Artist
Givatayim, Israel

RUFUS REID, Composer
Teaneck, NJ

TOM ROSENBERG, Film/Video Artist
Austin, TX

MORIEL ROTHMAN-ZECHER, Writer
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

MARTA SANCHEZ, Composer
Brooklyn, NY

SAM SAX, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

MATTHEW SCHREIBEIS, Composer
Baltimore, MD

RONNIE SCOTT, Writer
Collingwood, Australia

FRAN SHALOM, Visual Artist
Jersey City, NJ

JIM SHROSBREE, Visual Artist
Fairfield, IA

MELISSA SIPIN, Writer
Redwood City, CA

STEVEN SNOWDEN, Composer
Waltham, MA

ANNA SPERBER, Interdisciplinary
Artist; Brooklyn, NY

RUBY SPIEGEL, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

NADJA SPIEGELMAN, Writer
Paris, France

LINDSAY SPROUL, Writer
Cleveland, MS

SCOTT STARK, Film/Video Artist
Austin, TX

JESSICA STERN, Writer
Cambridge, MA

NAQEEB STEVENS, Visual Artist
Los Angeles, CA

ZULEMA RENEE SUMMERFIELD,
Writer; Portland, OR

LESLIE TAI, Film/Video Artist
Cupertino, CA

MIKA TANNER, Writer
Eugene, OR

LYSLEY TENORIO, Writer
San Francisco, CA

RASHAAD THOMAS, Writer
Phoenix, AZ

ANDREA THOME, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

MERRITT TIERCE, Writer
Denton, TX

ALINA TROYANO, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

GUINEVERE TURNER, Film/Video
Artist; Los Angeles, CA

JEAN VALENTINE, Writer
New York, NY

RODRIGO VALENZUELA, Film/Video
Artist; Houston, TX

KATIE VIDA, Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

FRANCINE VOLPE, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

METTE LOULOU VON KOHL,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

AYELET WALDMAN, Writer
Berkeley, CA

CHUCK WEBSTER, Visual Artist
Ridgewood, NY

CHRISTOPHER WILLES,
Interdisciplinary Artist
Montreal, QC, CANADA

WYATT WILLIAMS, Writer
Atlanta, GA

LANA WILSON, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

BESS WOHL, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

ERIC WUBBELS, Composer
Astoria, NY

RHIANA YAZZIE, Film/Video Artist
Saint Paul, MN

PETER YEADON, Architect
New York, NY

KHALED YOUSSEF, Film/Video Artist
Nasr City, Cairo, EGYPT

CATHERINE YU, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

STEPHEN ZACKS, Architect
Brooklyn, NY

ZACK ZADEK, Theatre Artist, Dix Hills, NY

CHRISTOPHER ZUAR, Composer
New York, NY

On the cover



Lucas Steele and Denée Benton in a scene from Dave Malloy's *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. The musical led the Tony Award nominations with 12, winning two. Read about the other Fellow works nominated and Tony winners on page 2. (Photo by Chad Batka)

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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The names of MacDowell Fellows are noted in **bold** throughout this newsletter.

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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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The Colony is grateful for the generous support of the following organizations:

