

MAC
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C O L O N Y

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IN THIS ISSUE >

Whiting Foundation Partnership Aids Struggling Writers 2

Three Fellows Win Prestigious MacArthur Grants 3

Academy Award Nominations to Two 4

Thornton Wilder Rarities Donated to Library 4

Architects | Composers | Filmmakers | Interdisciplinary Artists | Theatre Artists | Visual Artists | Writers



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Contemporary for 111 Years

We’ve unpacked, settled in, and just unwrapped new signs to mark our location on West 23rd Street in New York with the bold new logo you see on this newsletter’s cover. It anchors a new visual identity as we look to the future as well as a recommitment to our original mission of nurturing boundary-pushing artists in an inspiring multi-disciplinary community. The logo, designed for us pro bono by DigitasLBi, combines the printer’s CMYK palette to create seven different hues to represent the seven artistic disciplines pursued at MacDowell. When it goes up on our new Chelsea offices, the logo will signal a renewed push to advance our mission both locally and nationally.

Art helps us see another point of view and propels us forward. We hope you will join us in that effort in whatever way you can. Go see a show or film, read a book, visit a beautiful building or garden, attend a concert, poetry reading, performance, visit an installation or gallery. To help you choose, and remain informed of the artists to watch who are breaking new ground, we hope you’ll enjoy this newsletter, our eNews, social media, and our soon-to-be launched redesigned web site. You’ll find information on where to experience art by MacDowell artists, and announcements about new programming taking place at our new location, like the MacDowell NOW conversation we hosted last month (story at right).

All these changes may seem like the conclusion of much work and preparation, but we see them as a new beginning, a launch into a future filled with possibility. We take our cue from the MacDowells, who always looked ahead, cultivating great talent by inviting creative artists to explore and experiment at their Peterborough oasis. As a result, we’ve extended 14,500 residencies to more than 8,000 diverse Fellows from around the globe since 1907. In calendar year 2017 alone, we’ve welcomed 306 artists, 66% of whom had never been before and 60% who are women. If that’s not forward-looking, what is?

We hope you agree and will take the time in these pages to find out where that commitment to the future is taking us!

Cheryl A. Young, Executive Director

Whiting Writer Survey Proves Value of Fellowships

BY FELICITY SLATER

Since 1998, MacDowell has partnered with The Whiting Foundation to offer The Whiting Writers’ Aid Program, which provides financial aid stipends for Fellows of demonstrated need. Fellows tell us that this program, which provides stipends of up to \$1,000 each for approximately 35 writers per year, has a profound impact on the early careers of writers and makes for a diverse artist community. With the Whiting Foundation’s help, MacDowell has improved the accessibility of our program to all artists, regardless of financial means. Each MacDowell Fellowship covers all residency costs, including studio space, access to the newly renovated Savidge Library, all meals, and living accommodations. Stipends – which artists use to defray costs that continue to accrue during their stays, including lost income, rent, utilities, and childcare – continue to make an essential difference by removing financial barriers to residency at MacDowell. This investment in writers’ careers has contributed to works that not only enrich our culture, but also position writers for future success.

Earlier this year, we surveyed a large group of writers – all Fellows within the past five years – and found that the financial realities of a writing career haven’t gotten any easier. As the economics of the publishing industry and the business of print media change, writers have less time and fewer earnings for their writing. Here are some results:

- 70% indicated that they had earned less than \$5,000 as a writer in the previous year
- During an average non-residency week, 57% of survey respondents have less than 25 hours to write
- 73% identified the community of artists-in-residence at MacDowell as a major ongoing influence on their writing
- Fewer than 20% are employed full-time as writers or could comfortably support themselves as freelance writers
- 62% would be unable to accept a MacDowell Fellowship without additional financial aid
- More than 70% report an income growth following their residencies.

MacDowell Grant Writer Felicity Slater has an M.A. in philosophy from CUNY Graduate Center.

New Partnership with Spain-USA Benefits Composers

Javier Moreno Sanchez, a double bass player and composer working on a piece for the Icarus Ensemble to premiere in Washington, D.C., and Octavio Vazquez, a composer working on a clarinet concerto to be premiered by clarinetist José Franch-Ballester in 2019-2020, will be the first Fellows under a new partnership with the Spain-USA Foundation. The new support provides assistance with travel expenses of up to \$1500 for a Spain-based artist and up to \$500 for a U.S.-based artist of Spanish nationality, plus a stipend for expenses incurred during the residency. This new joint program with Spain-USA will support MacDowell’s ongoing diversification of its residency program. Check portablemacdowell.org/#news for the latest about the Colony.

First Event in New Chelsea Office Kicks Off with Writers Talking Politics

On February 22, The Colony and Amazon Literary Partnership launched the conversation series “MacDowell NOW: Conversations that Matter” at our new Chelsea offices. Our first panel focused on art creation in the current political era, featuring essayist and journalist Kristin Dombek, national security writer Mattathias Schwartz, Asian American Writers’ Workshop Executive Director Ken Chen, and novelist, editor, and essayist Elissa Schappel, who moderated. “Artists have often been the nexus of alternative ways of thinking about the critical issues of the day,” said MacDowell Executive Director Cheryl Young. “We hope this and other ‘Conversations that Matter’ will lead to better understanding and new opportunities to make progress.” The event gave MacDowell and ALP the opportunity to offer artists a platform to discuss the impact of today’s political and social environments on literary art-making. “In this climate of threats to free speech and the NEA, we felt it was time to expand beyond our core mission and attempt to bring together writers and others from the literary community,” said ALP Director Neal Thompson.

The event is just the first planned for MacDowell’s ninth Manhattan home. Located in the heart of New York’s vibrant arts community, MacDowell’s New York office is now located on 23rd Street, right next to the Highline and a mile from the Whitney Museum. Used for MacDowell’s administrative offices, exhibitions, and new programming for MacDowell Fellows and supporters, the 4,500-square-foot space is designed by Fred Clarke of the renowned Pelli Clarke Pelli architects.



New Board Members New Staff



Lane Czaplinski Arts Center Director



Carlos Murillo Playwright



Alex Bernstein Office Assistant



Felicity Slater Grant Writer



Julia Tolo Executive Assistant



The cast of Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves* received a special Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble.

AWARDS & GRANTS

Impressive Season for Theatre Artists, Writers, Visual Artists, and Architects



Damon Rich

3 MacArthur Grants

The Colony counts three of its Fellows as 2017 MacArthur Grantees, marking MacDowell’s longstanding commitment to nurturing the careers of some of the world’s most distinguished artists. Playwright **Annie Baker** (09, 14, 17), playwright and performance artist **Taylor Mac** (14), and architect **Damon Rich** (05) all received 2017 MacArthur Grants. Baker, Mac and Rich join a group of 28 other MacDowell Fellows who are also MacArthur Award Winners. To date, MacDowell Fellows have earned 83 Pulitzer Prizes, 803 Guggenheim Fellowships, 30 National Book Awards, 30 Tony Awards, 31 MacArthur Fellowships, 101 Rome Prizes, 10 Grammy Awards, 8 Academy Awards, and 8 National Medals for the Arts, among others. “The news from the MacArthur Foundation is maybe the most surprising thing that ever happened to me,” said Rich. “It makes me grateful for all the teachers, heroes, collaborators (many of them MacDowell Fellows!) that made it possible for an initially ignorant kid from the suburbs to contribute anything worthwhile.”

2 Lucille Lortel Prizes

The 32nd Lucille Lortel Awards given last May netted coveted hardware for two MacDowell Fellows. Playwright **J.T. Rogers** (07) won the Outstanding Play trophy for *Oslo*. The Lincoln Center Theater production also won Lucille Lortels for Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Lead Actress for Jenifer Ehle, and Outstanding Featured Actor for Michael Aronov. Theatre Artist **Jared Mezzocchi** (17) won a Lucille Lortel for Outstanding Projection Design for his work on *Vietgone*.

5 Obie Awards

In addition to celebrating two Tony Awards for her play *Indecent*, which won Best Direction of a Play for **Rebecca Taichman** (11) and Best Lighting Design, **Paula Vogel** (5x 82-11) was presented with the Obie Award for Lifetime Achievement. Other Obie awards and their winners included: Award for Best New American Theatre Work to **J.T. Rogers** (07) for *Oslo*, Award for Directing to **Rebecca Taichman** (11) for *Indecent*, Award for Projection Design to **Jared Mezzocchi** (17) for *Vietgone*, A Special Citation to **Taylor Mac** (14) for *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*.

3 Drama Desk Awards

Just after the Obies and the Tonys, more accolades flowed to MacDowell Fellows. Three Fellows won individual Drama Desk Awards. **J. T. Rogers** (07) won Outstanding Play for *Oslo*, **Mimi Lien** (12) won Outstanding Set Design for *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, which was written and composed by **Dave Malloy** (16), and **Basil Twist** (07, 18) won Outstanding Puppet Design for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Finally, the cast of the **Sarah DeLappe** (17) play *The Wolves* received a special award for Outstanding Ensemble.

2 PEN Literary Awards

Among the Literary Awards handed out by PEN America in 2017, two went to MacDowell Fellows. The PEN awards are conferred on writers and translators for “exceptional literary works and careers across the fields of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, translation, and more.” The PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay published in 2016 “that exemplifies the dignity and esteem that the essay form imparts to literature” was given to **Angela Morales** (16) for her collection *The Girls in My Town*. The PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award to honor a Master Dramatist was given to playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** (89, 91, 95).

8 Pollock-Krasner Grants

Pollock-Krasner grants have enabled artists to create new work, purchase needed materials and pay for studio rent as well as their personal and medical expenses. Past recipients acknowledge their critical impact in allowing concentrated time for studio work, and in preparing for exhibitions and other professional opportunities such as accepting a residency. The following MacDowell Fellows were awarded Pollock-Krasner Foundation grants in 2017: **Jennifer Paige Cohen** (14, 16), **Joelle Dietrick** (17), **Bill Jacobson** (7x 96-16), **Farrah Karapetian** (10), **Samuel Nigro** (03), **Morgan O’Hara** (08, 09), **Mamiko Otsubo** (10), and **Jessica Segall** (13).

1 Rona Jaffe Award

Fiction writer **Dominica Phetteplace** (16) was named a winner of one of six 2017 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Awards late last month. The award is given annually to six women writers who demonstrate “excellence and promise in the early stages of their careers.” Phetteplace said she plans to use the \$30,000 grant awarded by the Rona Jaffe Foundation to support her living expenses so she can focus on finishing her novel, which she worked on in residence. “My grant buys me more time to write, which feels especially urgent given everything happening in the world right now,” she said.

4 Lambda Literary Awards

In June, Lambda Literary, which advances lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) literature, announced the winners of the 29th Annual Lambda Literary Awards (the “Lammys”). Among the winners were four Fellows: **francine j. harris** (17) tied for best Lesbian Poetry with Pat Parker for her collection *Play Dead* (Alice James Books); **Nicole Dennis-Benn** (15) won for Lesbian Fiction with her novel *Here Comes the Sun* (Liveright Publishing Corporation); **Rabih Alameddine** (99) won for Gay Fiction with his novel *The Angel of History* (Atlantic Monthly Press); and **Abigail Child** (9x 83-99) won for Bisexual Poetry with her collection *Mouth to Mouth* (EOAGH). **Jacqueline Woodson** (4x 90-09) was honored for lifetime achievement.

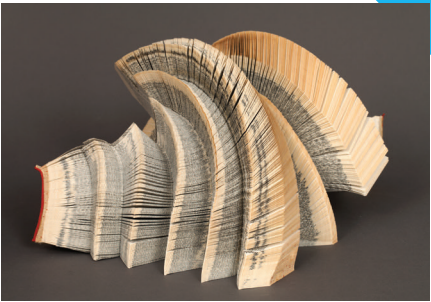
1 AIALA Award

Architect **Jennifer Siegal**’s (04) firm OMD won the 2017 AIA Los Angeles Chapter Residential Architecture Award and was subsequently featured in *dwell*. The modular prefabricated structure, featured on the cover of *dwell* (at right), amounts to three stacked steel additions to her 1920s California bungalow. It was brought in by crane over the existing building and finished in one day. The “560-square-foot modular addition uses a diagrid structural system that’s wrapped in Polycarbonate panels to maximize light, energy, and efficiency,” according to *dwell*.



Meredith Monk
Wins 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize
given annually to an artist who has “pushed the boundaries of an art form, contributed to social change and paved the way for the next generation.” In 2015 President Barack Obama presented Monk (MF 7x 87–07) with the National Medal of Arts.

Exhibitions, Performances, Acquisitions & More



Visual artist **Doug Beube** (86) mounted a solo show, “Booked,” at Bard College this past autumn.

Composer **John David Earnest** (8x 88-96) had recent works performed this past summer. At dates in June at three separate festivals, his works *Chimera Waltzes* (2016), *Songs of Hadrian* (2014), and *Commedia Gallery* were all featured.

Photographer **Judy Gelles** (98) sold six photographs from the 1970 series “Family Portrait” to The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

Painter **Tom Judd** (01) was featured in a solo show, “Deconstructed,” in Philadelphia last summer.

Visual artist **Lavar Munroe** (15) mounted a third solo exhibition, “Gun Dogs,” at Jack Bell Gallery in London this past autumn. He also contributed a site-specific installation in Paris for a group exhibition titled “Afriques Capitales” curated by Simone Njami and followed that with a solo exhibit at NOMAD Gallery in Brussels.

Filmmaker **Bill Morrison** (00) screened the North American theatrical premiere of *Dawson City: Frozen Time* at New York’s IFC Center in June.

Visual artist **Betty Tompkins** (4x 82-90) exhibited as part of a group show with other women artists at Venus LA this past summer.

Sculptor **Bradley Wester** (01, 07) exhibited in a solo show this summer at Yellow Peril Gallery in Providence this past summer.

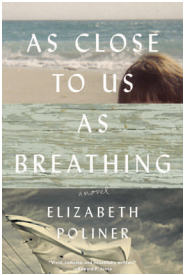
Filmmaker **Lana Wilson** (17) screened her U.S. premiere of her new film *The Departure* in multiple cities in November.

Architect **Johannes Knoops** (96, 97, 99) discovered the location of the 1500 AD printing press of Aldus Pius Manutius through a residency at the Branca Center of the Cini Foundation this past summer. The next step will be proposing a new memorial at the site.

Photographer **Vesna Pavlovic** (16) was awarded The George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellowship for her “Art History Archive” project, which explores the archives of art history slides as an ongoing effort.

Writer **Elizabeth Poliner** (16) received the 2017 Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize for Fiction for her novel *As Close to Us As Breathing*.

Visual artist **Diana Shpungin** (12) won a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Award In Sculpture and completed a Dieu Donne residency last summer.





Oscar Nominations for Two Films Involving Work of Three Fellows

Filmmaker **Dee Rees** (MF 12, 14) earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay this past season for her film *Mudbound*. The screenplay, based on the novel of the same name by **Hillary Jordan** (MF 10, 14, 17) also received nominations for Best Supporting Actress, Best Song, and Best Cinematography. The sweeping post-World War II family epic follows the story of Mississippi sharecroppers in an unlikely and tragic friendship. Filmmaker **Yance Ford** (12) earned a nomination for Best Documentary Feature for *Strong Island*, a film that depicts the violent death of Ford’s brother and the judicial system that failed him.



Clockwise from top left: **Dee Rees** earned an Oscar nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Mudbound*, *Mudbound* author **Hillary Jordan**, and *Strong Island* writer and director **Yance Ford**.



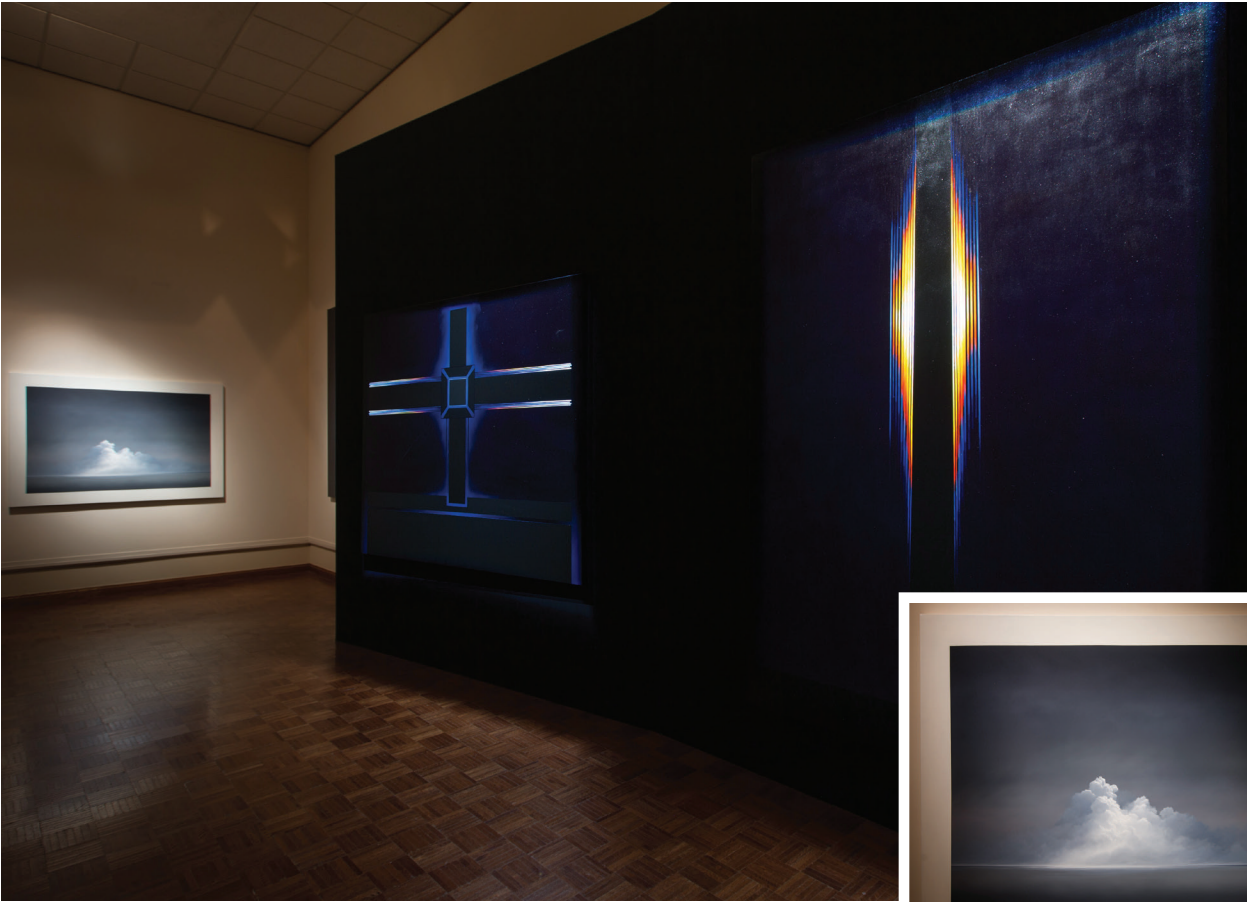
Seamus Scanlon Collaborates with Oscar Winner

Playwright **Seamus Scanlon** (12) recently collaborated on a short film with Academy Award Winner Marketa Irglova, who co-wrote the song “Falling Slowly” from the film *Once*. Scanlon’s film is based on an award-winning flash fiction piece entitled *The Long Wet Grass* that the playwright then adapted into a play, now part of his *The McGowan Trilogy*. The series of one-act plays have been staged in New York, Ireland, and the UK. A Japanese language version will be produced in Tokyo in 2018.



Actors **Paul and Anna Nugent**, **Marketa Irglova**, and **Seamus Scanlon**.

IMAGES COURTESY HUNTINGTON MUSEUM



NEW WORK

Robert Singleton Shows “Joy of Light”

Painter **Robert Singleton** (70, 71, 73) mounted a solo exhibit called “For The Joy of Light,” an interactive multimedia installation at the Huntington Museum in Huntington, West Virginia last fall. He exhibited new large scale paintings that were accompanied by dynamic sound and viewer interactive lighting in the space. Singleton has said, “the MacDowell experience is one of the most profound any creative person could ever hope for. MacDowell provided me with an awareness that would touch the course of my work for the decades that have followed.”

DONATION

Wilder Rarities Donated to Savidge Library

BY SANDRA KAYIRA

Composer **Joel Harrison** (MF 7x 02-14) has donated a box of limited-edition **Thornton Wilder** books and plays to MacDowell’s Savidge Library. The generous gift is part of a larger collection of books Harrison’s father left behind when he died in 2008.

Wilder, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and novelist, was a nine-time MacDowell Fellow (1924-1953) and the first artist to be awarded the Edward MacDowell Medal in the Arts in 1960.

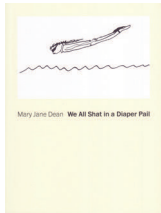
“My father had a small publishing company ... and tried to recruit some of his favorite authors and I think he met Wilder sometime in 1942,” Joel says of his Dad, Gilbert Harrison. The friendship lasted and the elder Harrison got to know Wilder well during the time Harrison was editor of *The New Republic* magazine from 1954 to 1974. As editor, Harrison worked on revitalizing *The New Republic*, earning him the George Polk Award in 1964.

Wilder’s sister asked Gilbert Harrison to write Wilder’s biography. As a result, *The Enthusiast: A Life of Thornton Wilder* (1983), is the only authorized biography of the writer. The collection is an assortment of limited first-edition plays and novels on reserve, with some works available for circulation within MacDowell’s Savidge Library.

“First editions have special resonance. Given that Wilder was so important to MacDowell it seems appropriate that these important works live there,” says Harrison. “I’ve done a lot of my best composing at MacDowell.... It’s nice to give something back to MacDowell – it’s given me so much.”

Sandra Kayira was a communications intern in 2017 and received her B.A. from Keene State College.

New and Notable Books

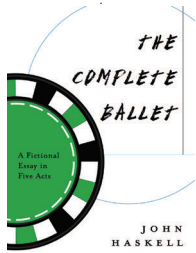


Writer **Jonathan Blunk** (4x 08-16) published the biography *James Wright: A Life in Poetry* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) in October.

Visual artist **Mary Jane Dean** (00, 15) published *We All Shat in a Diaper Pail* (Pressed Wafer), the texts and drawings for which were completed in residence.

Poet **Kathy Fagan** (88, 92, 94) published a fifth collection, *Sycamore* (Milkweed Editions) in May.

Photographer **David Goldes** (02, 03) published a new book of photos entitled *Electricities* (Damiani/ Bologna).



Writer **John Haskell** (8x 84-15) published *The Complete Ballet: A Fictional Essay in Five Acts* (Graywolf Press) in September.

Writer **Rachel Kadish** (4x 97-11) published *The Weight of Ink* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), which she worked on in residence last summer.

Poet **E.J. Koh** (14) published her debut book, *A Lesser Love* (Louisiana State University Press), last summer. It was a finalist for the National Poetry Series and won the Pleiades Prize.

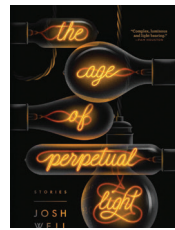
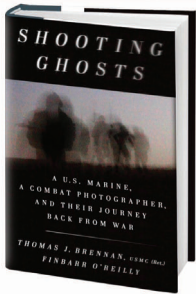
Writer **N. West Moss** (12) published her short story collection *The Subway Stops at Bryant Park* (Leapfrog Press) last spring. It contains stories she wrote during her residency.

Photojournalist **Finbarr O'Reilly** (16) published the

book he was working on in residence, *Shooting Ghosts: A U.S. Marine, a Combat Photographer, and Their Journey Back from War* (Viking) in August.

Writer **Laura Schenone** (13) published the book she worked on in residence, *Dogs of Avalon : The Race to Save Animals in Peril* (W.W. Norton) in August.

Writer **Josh Weill** (10, 11, 13) published a story collection, *The Age of Perpetual Light* (Grove Press), this past summer.





**The MacDowell Fellows
Executive Committee
maintains a Facebook Group**
at facebook.com/groups/macdowell
All Fellows are welcome.
Contact the group administrator there
for membership privileges.

NH Benefit

One hundred thirty generous MacDowell supporters joined our artists-in-residence at 100 High Street on November 4th for a festive 2017 New Hampshire Benefit. The event, themed The 25th Hour in honor of the end of Daylight Saving Time, raised more than \$46,000, and fully funded four Fellowships! Board Chairman **Michael Chabon** joined our guests as they enjoyed Fellow **Martin Philip**, writer and head bread baker at King Arthur Flour, reading from his new book *Breaking Bread: A Baker's Journey Home in 75 Recipes* and playing banjo in Savidge Library. After a delicious dinner cooked by our own chefs in Colony Hall, playwright and Fellow **Aja Nisenson** entertained the crowd with her hilarious cabaret persona, Daja Vu.



Aja Nisenson took on the role of **Daja Vu** and wowed the crowd with her sultry and comedic cabaret act.



Master baker and writer **Martin Philip** read from his book and played the banjo in Savidge Library before dinner.

Save the Dates

🕒 **MAY 7, 2018**
NATIONAL BENEFIT IN NYC

GET YOUR TICKETS! You can purchase tickets for our annual gala at Gotham Hall from our website or by calling 212-535-9690. Don't miss this special event when we will honor Executive Director Cheryl Young for 30 years of creative leadership.

🕒 **JULY 12-14, 2018**
THIRD INT'L THORNTON WILDER CONFERENCE

Co-sponsored by the Thornton Wilder Society and Monadnock Center for History and Culture.

🕒 **AUGUST 2018**
MEDAL DAY

We look forward to seeing you on Medal Day when we will award the Edward MacDowell Medal in the Arts to a creative leader in the world of comic art. Stay tuned for details!

MATTHEW CARASELLA PHOTOGRAPHY



🕒 CHAIRMAN'S EVENING

Patti Smith and Salman Rushdie Join Michael Chabon, Discuss Politics and Art

Musician and writer Patti Smith and author Salman Rushdie joined MacDowell Chairman and author **Michael Chabon** for a wide-ranging discussion at The Whitney Museum in New York on December 4. Before an invitation-only crowd of 130 guests, the trio talked politics, how they wrote, and what they were currently working on during a conversation modeled on dinner banter between artists at the Colony. The evening included a tour of MacDowell's new offices in Chelsea beforehand, a Q&A session with the audience, and a cocktail reception afterward. You can listen to the entire program at macdowellcolony.org/events/chairmans-evening.



MATTHEW CARASELLA PHOTOGRAPHY

🕒 FRIENDS OF MACDOWELL

MacDowell in New Orleans

From November 15-19 the legendary city of New Orleans played host to a group of MacDowell Colony Friends for a four-day tour of sights both famous and infamous. The adventure opened with a reception with MacDowell artists living in the Crescent City and an excerpted private performance of Composer **Yotam Haber's** (6x 09-16) work, *The Book of Maintenance and Sustenance*. This art-filled trip included visits to Music Box Village with **Aurora Nealand** (15), a performance from *Cry You One* at **Kathy Randels** (14) and **Jeff Becker's** (14) Catapult Theater space. In addition to all the music, art, and of course incredible food, our group also enjoyed a historical and architectural tour of New Orleans and its environs as well as a performance at the world-famous Preservation Hall and a trip to the little-known gem, the Backstreet Cultural Museum, to learn about the traditions and history of Mardi Gras Indians with Big Chief Victor Harris of the Fi-Yi-Yi Indian gang. For more information about the Friends of MacDowell and upcoming events please contact Shaun Newport at snewport@macdowellcolony.org.



STACEY BOSWORTH, DEAN KLINGLER 2



Clockwise from top: Friends of MacDowell gather at Bywater Wonderland during a November trip to New Orleans, Fellows who live and work in the Crescent City join Executive Director Cheryl Young for a group shot, MacDowell Board President Andrew Senchak had a chance meeting with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell on the eve of her historic election as the city's first female mayor.

JONATHAN GOURLAY



On Saturday, October 14th, close to 200 MacDowell Fellows gathered with staff at our new New York space at 521 West 23rd Street for their annual reunion. Attendance was a record, and each ticket purchased will support future MacDowell Fellowships.



In the Schools & Downtown



JONATHAN GOURLAY 3

Composer Caroline Shaw led Walden School musicians in a voice exercise during their visit to MacDowell. She and composer Sam Pluta talked shop and answered questions.

MacDowell in the Schools has been bringing the creative process to the classroom since 1996. From May through October, the following MacDowell Fellows volunteered their time to visit various regional schools: Playwright **Jared Mezzocchi** visited Pine Hill Waldorf School and presented theatre activities, and visited with 30 students in the Lucy Hurlin Theatre at ConVal High School in June where he discussed his journey as a writer and multimedia designer; visual artist **Michael Waugh** opened Eastman Studio to eight ConVal Regional High School student artists and their teacher in June; composers **Sam Pluta** and **Caroline Shaw** hosted a visit from the Walden School at MacDowell's Savidge Library in July to talk about their work and field questions; Composer **Rozalie Hirs** visited ConVal High School and met with 40 Aesthetics and Ideas students in the Lucy Hurlin Theater in September to read a poem and play a 22-minute collage of her music and poetry for the students; and in October, interdisciplinary artist **Chin Chih Yang** met with the ConVal Aesthetics and Ideas students and shared a film about his works and then answered questions from the students.

MACDOWELL DOWNTOWN

In May, two playwrights, Pulitzer Prize-winning **Ayad Akhtar** and Guggenheim Fellow **Carson Kreitzer**, presented at MacDowell Downtown. They discussed the impact of contemporary theater at a time of political upheaval,

and read brief monologues before taking questions from the audience. In June, Experimental filmmaker **Jacqueline Goss** screened films she shot in New Hampshire and discussed her blend of fiction and documentary. In July, filmmaker **Pacho Velez** screened excerpts of his all-archival documentary *The Reagan Show* and showed clips from other work, discussed current projects, and took questions. In August, we sponsored two showings of *David Lynch: The Art Life* for a special edition to showcase the 2017 Edward MacDowell Medal winner. In September, playwright **Ella Hickson** discussed the theatre industry and her latest work, which takes on the subjects of globalization and power struggles in human relationships. Fellows **Asa Horvitz** and **Liza Birkenmeier** helped read a selection of Hickson's play *Oil*. In October, pianist and composer **Michael Djupstrom** performed recent works with saxophonist Jonathan Wintringham and flutist Xuan Li, and talked about his creative process and how he makes work. Finally, in November, filmmaker **David Petersen** presented at the final MacDowell Downtown of the 2017 season. He introduced excerpts from several recent works and talked about the filmmaking process.

THING IN THE SPRING, MONADNOCK MUSIC, & MORE

A number of MacDowell Fellows and staff participated in the 10th annual Thing in the Spring arts festival in

Peterborough in June.

Writers **Rebecca Bengal** and **Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich**, and poet **Cristian Flores Garcia** participated in a special MacDowell Colony reading series at the Toadstool Bookshop as part of the annual festival. Filmmaker **Amy Jenkins** presented an installation during the festival in a store window at the corner of Grove and Main Streets. Composer/musician **Sam Moss** performed and Resident Director David Macy spoke to the Alliance of Artists Communities at the Sharon Arts Center during the festival.

Playwright **Jess Barbagallo** worked with the child actors of Andy's Summer Playhouse in Wilton for nearly a month to help stage his adaptation of the book *George* by Alex Gino. The play, *Melissa, So Far*, ran for 12 performances in July. Playwright **Jennifer Haley** also worked with Andy's Summer Playhouse in two workshops, "The Craft of Play Writing" and "Facilitating The Multimedia Toolkit."

During its summer program, Monadnock Music included selections from *The Tender Land* and *Two Pieces for String Quartet* by composer and MacDowell Fellow **Aaron Copland**, B.A.S.S. *Variations* by **Paul Moravec**, and *River of Light* by **Richard Danielpour** in their performances.

Writer **Jack E. Davis** signed and



Pianist and composer Michael Djupstrom performed his works with saxophonist Jonathan Wintringham and flutist Xuan Li during October's MacDowell Downtown.

discussed his latest book *The Gulf -- The Making of an American Sea* at The Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough in July.

In August, visual artist **Ben Durham** opened Firth Studio to representatives of the 1434 Foundation who were touring the Colony with Resident Director David Macy.

In September, poet **Cynthia Manick** and nonfiction writer **Sarah McColl** read from their works in Savidge Library as part of the annual gathering of the Monadnock Writers' Group. In November, Assistant to the Resident Director Ann Hayashi participated in the public discussion "How is Our Town Your Town?" at the Mariposa Museum of World Culture in Peterborough.



Visual artist Michael Waugh welcomed a group of ConVal High School artists to Eastman Studio during a visit and discussed his process.

Social Media



At left are composer Eli Arbor (17) and visual artist Duke Reilly (17) at Duke's solo show at New York's Magnan Metz Gallery in September. Below is the crowd with Mark Thomas Gibson (17) during the opening of his exhibition "Early Retirement" at Fredericks and Freiser, also in September. You can keep up with openings, readings, and all sorts of artist presentations and news on Facebook, and our Twitter and Instagram feeds @MacDowellColony.



CHRISTIAN HOLLAND 2

\$30,000 National Endowment Grant to Bring More Artists to Colony

The National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has announced a \$30,000 Art Works grant to The MacDowell Colony to bring 20 artists from diverse backgrounds to The Colony for the first time. MacDowell, the nation's first artist residency program, will also leverage the grant to raise matching private funding.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to MacDowell, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives," said Chu. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities, and connections the arts bring."

"This grant will support artists from diverse communities and backgrounds who have never been in-residence before, and give them the opportunity to create new work and meet other creative artists. It will also have a direct impact on providing expanded access to the arts in the Peterborough area and beyond," said MacDowell Executive Director Cheryl A. Young. "Fellows often take part in our MacDowell in the Schools and MacDowell Downtown programs, where they interact with the public and are enriched by the experience as they enrich our region's arts culture."

To attract qualified applicants who would otherwise not be able to afford time off for a residency, MacDowell will provide financial aid and travel support of up to \$2,000 per artist in addition to the residency Fellowships supported by this grant. Stipends may be used to cover lost income and ongoing expenses during the residency. MacDowell distributes nearly \$150,000 annually in direct aid to artists of demonstrated need.

In total, the NEA approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of its first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement are all grants made within Art Works, the NEA's largest funding category. Art Works supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.



In 2017, 60% of Fellows were women and 66% were first-time Fellows, numbers that reflect our continued efforts to encourage applications from artists who represent the widest possible range of perspectives and demographics.

Remembering

Robert Akeret | Writer **Robert U. Akeret**, a psychoanalyst who wrote about his patients and their experiences, and how photos of people can reveal deep meaning about their subjects, died on November 12, 2016 in New York. He was 87. Born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1928, Akeret immigrated to the U.S. with his mother, Emmi Akeret. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and his certificate in psychoanalysis from the William Alanson White Institute, where he trained with Rollo May and Erich Fromm. He wrote five books: *Not by Words Alone* (1972), *Photoanalysis* (1975), *Family Tales*, *Family Wisdom* (1991), *Tales from a Traveling Couch* (1996), which was translated into seven languages, and *Photolanguage* (2000). *Publisher's Weekly* called the stories of patients in *Tales from a Traveling Couch* "compulsively readable profiles [that] are compelling existential dramas ... [a] deeply insightful book." He also appeared on several national talk shows, including "The Tonight Show" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Akeret believed that art and creativity are fundamental to powerful therapy and an engaged and meaningful life.



Chana Bloch | Poet **Chana Bloch** died May 19, 2017 in Berkeley, CA, from complications due to sarcoma. She was 77. Bloch, a poet and an acclaimed translator of Hebrew verse, was in residence in 1988, 1992, 1993, and 2000. Her poetry explored the mysteries of love, her own illness, and the unraveling of her first marriage. She grew up in the Pelham Bay neighborhood of The Bronx and studied at Cornell University, earning a degree in Semitic studies in 1961. She went on to receive two master's degrees from Brandeis University, in Near Eastern and Judaic studies in 1963 and in English literature in 1965. She taught English at Hebrew University in Jerusalem for several years and began translating, starting with two collections by Dahlia Ravikovitch, *A Dress of Fire* (1978) and *The Window* (1989). Bloch was the author of four books of her own poems: *The Secrets of the Tribe* (1981), *The Past Keeps Changing* (1992), *Mrs. Dumpty* (1998), and *Blood Honey* (2009). *Mrs. Dumpty*, written partially at MacDowell, is a collection that described the decline of her marriage to writer **Ariel Bloch** (92). Her awards include the Poetry Society of America's Di Castagnola Award, the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry, and the 2012 Meringoff Poetry Award.



Adrienne Elisha | Composer **Adrienne "Adie" Joy Elisha** died on June 12, 2017 in Höxter, Germany, after battling cancer. She was 58. Elisha, who was in residence in 2012, was born in Glen Cove, NY, to professional musicians, the late Dorothy Kesner and Paul Elisha. In addition to performing on the viola, she was a composer, poet, and painter. Elisha was a champion of new music, earned a Ph.D. in composition from the University of Buffalo, worked with David Felder as a Presidential Doctoral Fellow, and won a Thayer Award in music composition in 2007. Mario Davidovsky had described her *Anthelion* for sextet as "a new kind of polyphony." Leonard Bernstein described her work as "excitingly unpredictable, yet inevitable in retrospect." Among her numerous grants and commissions were those from Meet the Composer and The National Music Teachers' Association, by whom she was named the 1997 Ohio Composer of the Year. Her works have been featured both nationally and internationally. *Cry of the Dove*, her cello concerto, was commissioned and premiered by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony for Solo Cellist, her brother Steven Elisha. She was principal violist with The Center for 21st Century Music Ensemble and the June in Buffalo Chamber Ensemble. She also performed frequently with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Michael Friedman | Composer and Lyricist **Michael Friedman** died on September 9, 2017 in New York of complications related to HIV/AIDS. He was 41. The Obie Award-winning composer, who was in residence in 2003, was a prolific songwriter whose subjects covered a wide variety of subjects and ranged greatly in styles. He attended Harvard College. Perhaps best known for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, which premiered at Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre before moving to The Public Theater and then transferring to Broadway, his other credits include the musicals *Unknown Soldier*, *Pretty Filthy*, *The Fortress of Solitude*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. With The Civilians, he also wrote music and lyrics for *Canard Canard Goose*, *Gone Missing*, *Nobody's Lunch*, *This Beautiful City*, *In the Footprint*, and *The Great Immensity*, and music for **Anne Washburn's** (01, 08, 13) *Mr. Burns*. Alongside his writing, Friedman served as Encores! Off-Center artistic director at New York City Center, was co-founder of The Civilians, and artist-in-residence and director of Public Forum at The Public Theater. His Tedx talk, "The Song Makes a Space," can be seen on YouTube. An evening of his songs was featured at Lincoln Center's American Songbook, and WNYC featured his songs about the 2016 election.



Mel Rosenthal | Photographer **Mel Rosenthal**, who documented life in places as disparate as the South Bronx and Tanzania, died on October 30, 2017 in Redding, CT. He was 77. Rosenthal, who was in residence in 2001, 2002, and 2007, was especially known for his images of people living their lives despite the decay and desolation of the South Bronx in the 1970s and 1980s. By focusing on the people central to the images, he captured "the human spirit that survived amid the bleakness," according to *The New York Times*. Rosenthal was born in the Bronx, but the family moved to South Carolina and returned during his youth. He graduated from City College and received a Ph.D. in English literature and American studies at the University of Connecticut in 1967. After being bitten by the photo bug as an exchange student in Rome, he travelled to Africa as a medical photographer before returning to teach photography at Empire State College, and started documenting his old neighborhood. His starkly expressive images were collected in the book *In the South Bronx of America* (2000). He also travelled to many other parts of the world where people struggled with their surroundings, capturing the human spirit, according to critics.

Diane Torr | Performance artist **Dianne Torr**, a trail blazer in gender activism and feminist theatre, and a founding member of the 1970s a cappella punk group DISBAND, died May 31, 2017 in Clydebank, Scotland. She was 68. In residence in 1996, 2003, 2011, and 2016, Torr made art in dance, film, and installation art, but it was her performance pieces that were best known. Her "Man for a Day" drag king workshops were popular with women who were curious about another way of living. Born in Toronto, Canada, Torr grew up in Aberdeen, Scotland. She moved to New York to study with Merce Cunningham, but was drawn to the city's punk scene and started making experimental performance pieces in the East Village. She met MacDowell Fellows **Ilona Granet**, **Donna Henes**, and **Martha Wilson**, and they formed DISBAND. Her drag king workshops, initially conceived as a subversive form of empowerment for all women, became influential in the world of lesbian drag kings, and demand grew. She performed in the U.S. and Europe after appearing on Donahue, Jerry Springer and Montel William's television programs.



Fellowships

🕒 From May 2017 through October 2017, The MacDowell Colony welcomed a total 156 artists from 30 states and 10 countries. The group included 76 writers, 24 visual artists, 14 theatre artists, 17 film/video artists, 11 composers, 7 interdisciplinary artists, and seven architects.

Jenessa Abrams, Writer
New York, NY

Ellie Abrons, Architect
Ann Arbor, MI

Ross Adams, Architect
Des Moines, IA

Ayad Akhtar, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

Eloisa Amezcu, Writer
Tempe, AZ

Molly Antopol, Writer
Berlin, GERMANY

Debby Applegate, Writer
New Haven, CT

Annie Baker, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Jennifer Barber, Writer
Brookline, MA

Katherine Behar, Interdisciplinary Artist,
Brooklyn, NY

Andrea Bewick, Writer
Santa Rosa, CA

Liza Birkenmeier, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Sonya Blesofsky, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

William Boast, Writer
Chicago, IL

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhran, Writer
East Lansing, MI

Leila Bordreuil, Composer
Brooklyn, NY

Lisa Brown, Writer
San Francisco, CA

Rita Bullwinkel, Writer
San Francisco, CA

A'Leilia Bundles, Writer
Washington, DC

Crystal Campbell, Visual Artist
Tulsa, OK

Clarissa Campolina, Film/Video Artist,
Belo Horizonte, BRAZIL

Christopher Cerrone, Composer
Brooklyn, NY

Katie Chase, Writer
Portland, OR

Brian Christian, Writer
San Francisco, CA

Joyce Conlon, Visual Artist
Novato, CA

Marie-Therese Connolly, Writer
Washington, DC

Meehan Crist, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Oscar Cuevas, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Richard Danielpour, Composer
Los Angeles, CA

Gohar Dashti, Visual Artist
Boston, MA

Carina del Valle Schorske, Writer
New York, NY

Sarah DeLappe, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Catherine Despont, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Sharon Dolin, Writer, New York, NY

Ben Durham, Visual Artist
Richmond, VA

Hasan Elahi, Visual Artist
College Park, MD

David Eskenazi, Architect
Los Angeles, CA

Rodney Evans, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Dominic Finocchiaro, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Kate Folk, Writer
San Francisco, CA

Motoko Fukuyama, Film/Video Artist,
Brooklyn, NY

Antonio Furguele, Architect
Somerville, MA

Mariah Garnett, Film/Video Artist
Los Angeles, CA

Mariah Garnett, Film/Video Artist
Los Angeles, CA

Adam Giannelli, Writer
Salt Lake City, UT

Mark Gibson, Visual Artist
New Haven, CT

Jacqueline Goss, Film/Video Artist
Eaton, NH

Andy Graydon, Visual Artist
Cambridge, MA

Rhonda Green-Smith, Writer
Washington, DC

Eva H.D., Writer
Toronto, CANADA

Harmony Hammond, Visual Artist
Galisteo, NM

James Hannahan, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

francine j. harris, Writer
St. Louis, MO

Mikko Harvey, Writer
Cambridge, MA

Emily Hass, Visual Artist
New York, NY

LeVan Hawkins, Writer
Robbins, IL

Megan Healey, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Emma Heaney, Writer
New York, NY

Thomas Heise, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Ella Hickson, Theatre Artist
London, UNITED KINGDOM

Rozalie Hirs, Composer
Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS

Cara Hoffman, Writer
New York, NY

Asa Horvitz, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Elizabeth Howard, Writer
New York, NY

Ted Huffman, Theatre Artist
Greenwich, CT

Wil Hylton, Writer
Baltimore, MD

Shaun Irons, Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

John Jesurun, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

Amaud Jamaul Johnson, Writer
Madison, WI

Pauline Kaldas, Writer
Roanoke, VA

Stephen Karam, Theatre Artist
New York, NY

Ju-Yeon Kim, Visual Artist
Gwang Ju City, SOUTH KOREA

Kyung-mook Kim, Film/Video Artist
Seoul, SOUTH KOREA

Perri Klass, Writer
New York, NY

Ruth Ellen Kocher, Writer, Erie, CO

Carson Kreitzer, Theatre Artist
Minneapolis, MN

Joshua Kryah, Writer
St. Louis, MO

Jan Krzywicki, Composer
Wyndmoor, PA

Kendra Langford Shaw, Writer
Billings, MT

Yahaira Lawrence, Writer
Sleepy Hollow, NY

Shayla Lawson, Writer
Portland, OR

Riva Lehrer, Writer
Chicago, IL

Megan Leivad, Writer
San Francisco, CA

Lana Lin, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

Kalup Linzy, Visual Artist
Mascotte, FL

Paulette Livers, Writer
Chicago, IL

Alison Maclean, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Cynthia Manick, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Corinne Manning, Writer
Seattle, WA

Ben Marcus, Writer
New York, NY

Kyla Marshall, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Sarah McColl, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Frank Melendez, Architect
Brooklyn, NY

Shanna Merola, Visual Artist
Hamtramck, MI

Kim Merrill, Writer, New York, NY

Carrie Messenger, Writer
Shepherdstown, WV

Jared Mezzocchi, Theatre Artist
Silver Spring, MD

Catherine Moore, Writer
Fayetteville, WV

Michael Mount, Writer
Winston-Salem, NC

Terence Nance, Interdisciplinary Artist,
Brooklyn, NY

Dennis Norris II, Writer
New York, NY

Gina Occhiogrosso, Visual Artist
Troy, NY

John O'Connor, Visual Artist
Mohegan Lake, NY

Laurence O'Dwyer, Writer
Clonmel, Tipperary, IRELAND

Ian Olds, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Ladi Opaluwa, Writer
Abuja, NIGERIA

Tamie Parker Song, Writer
Sitka, AK

Lauren Petty, Interdisciplinary Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Sam Pluta, Composer, Chicago, IL

Sharon Pomerantz, Writer
Chicago, IL

Sunita Puri, Writer
Los Angeles, CA

Ariana Reines, Writer, Queens, NY

Yuly Restrepo, Writer, Largo, FL

Duke Riley, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Stevie Ronnie, Interdisciplinary Artist,
Hexham, UNITED KINGDOM

Paul Rucker, Visual Artist
Baltimore, MD

Mahmoud Saeed, Writer
Chicago, IL

Frauke Schlitz, Visual Artist
Stuttgart, GERMANY

Katy Scoggin, Film/Video Artist
San Bernardino, CA

Nicole Sealey, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Chet'la Seebree, Writer
Middletown, DE

Brenda Shaughnessy, Writer
Verona, NJ

Caroline Shaw, Composer
New York, NY

Edna Shemesh, Writer
Rehovot, ISRAEL

Karen Sherman, Interdisciplinary Artist,
Minneapolis, MN

Rosalyn Shieh, Architect
Brooklyn, NY

Nadia Shihab, Film/Video Artist
Oakland, CA

Deb Shoval, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

Paul Anthony Smith, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Kathryn Stockett, Writer
Atlanta, GA

Allyson Strafella, Visual Artist
Hudson, NY

Elisabeth Subrin, Film/Video Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Rachel Sussman, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Alexandra Tanner, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Sofia Thanhauser, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Milee Tibbs, Visual Artist
Detroit, MI

Kathleen Tolan, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Vu Tran, Writer
Chicago, IL

George Tsontakis, Composer
Shokan, NY

Hope Tucker, Film/Video Artist
Easthampton, MA

Bryna Turner, Theatre Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Lara Vapnyar, Writer
New York, NY

Pacho Velez, Film/Video Artist
New York, NY

Philip Venables, Theatre Artist
Berlin, GERMANY

Stewart Wallace, Composer
New York, NY

Margeaux Walter, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Sasha Waters Freyer, Film/Video Artist,
Richmond, VA

Michael Waugh, Visual Artist
Brooklyn, NY

Anna Webber, Composer
Brooklyn, NY

Sarah Weinman, Writer
Brooklyn, NY

Elliot Williams, Composer
Rochester, NY

Mabel Wilson, Architect
New York, NY

Jenny (Yi) Xie, Writer
Oakland, CA

Chin Chih Yang, Interdisciplinary Artist
Ardsey, NY

Cynthia Zarin, Writer
New York, NY

Courtney Zoffness, Writer
Brooklyn, NY



🕒 On the Cover

Twenty five years after it was built in 1908, Bark Studio was renamed the Ernest Schelling Studio in honor of the renowned composer and early MacDowell board president. It was the first studio built after the log cabin and was renovated to become a barrier-free and energy efficient live-in work space in 2006.

Joanna Eldredge Morrissey photo

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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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.

Chairman: Michael Chabon
President: Andrew M. Senchak
Executive Director: Cheryl A. Young
Resident Director: David Macy

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The 1434 Foundation

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