



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSION, VALUES, VISION

## Our Mission *(What We Do)*

MacDowell's mission is to nurture the arts by offering talented individuals an inspiring residential environment in which to produce enduring works of the creative imagination.

## Our Values *(What We Believe)*

MacDowell believes that the arts, artists, and creative processes are of primary importance. MacDowell was founded in 1907 around a belief in the inherent value of providing artists with uninterrupted time and supportive spaces in which to work.

We believe in the worth and dignity of all people. We aspire to understand and value the complex lives of the artists, staff, trustees, and all others who continue to support our mission.

We believe in a world that works for artists because art makes a better world. We strive to match the love that artists have of their work with our love of them as people. We support their vision through care, passion, and an unwavering belief in their importance to our society. We believe that when we give our very best to our artists, they give their very best to the world. The path of an artist is hard enough. We strive to ease that burden through care and a joyful, supportive community.

We believe MacDowell must play a role in fostering equity within the arts, with equity itself calling for the recognition of historically unequal starting points. We will use our wealth of experience and resources to create opportunities

for people who have in the past been excluded from access to the arts and advancement within the organizations that serve them.

And we believe in the responsible stewardship of our ecological and financial resources. We are committed to taking care of our land, our physical plant, our endowment, and our community.

## Our Vision *(What We Think About)*

As we carry this mission forward, we will continue to nurture its vitality and relevance by

- Interrogating our understanding of “artistic excellence” to ensure that within it, we recognize a wide range of artistic production and practice, including consideration of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access; and

- Investigating new virtual and/or on-site programming in both New York and Peterborough, in keeping with our mission.

Related to our value of recognizing the human dignity of all of our stakeholders, we are committed to

- Fostering the mutually respectful treatment of our residents and staff by continuing to build a safer, more inclusive, and accepting environment;

- Maintaining a culture of kindness, compassion, generosity, and care-taking;

- Bringing diverse voices and viewpoints to organizational decision making and clearly communicating our process and outcomes to our stakeholders;

- Using equitable hiring and compensation practices; and

- Recognizing that all members of our staff, regardless of department or title, come to us with a breadth of expertise, knowledge, opinions, and viewpoints, all of which may contribute to any area of our operations.

Related to our value of striving toward equity within the arts, we are

- Continually evaluating how our organizational structures operate, making them as transparent as possible and changing those that foster inequity; and

- Forward-looking in our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all groups, but profoundly aware of the particular burdens and injustices borne by Black Americans. We also acknowledge and affirm that MacDowell is built on the traditional homeland of the Western Abenaki people, and recognize the hardships they still endure as a result of the loss of their unceded land. A recognition of these realities will always inform the development of our policies and procedures.

Related to our value of responsible and ethical resource stewardship, we are focusing on

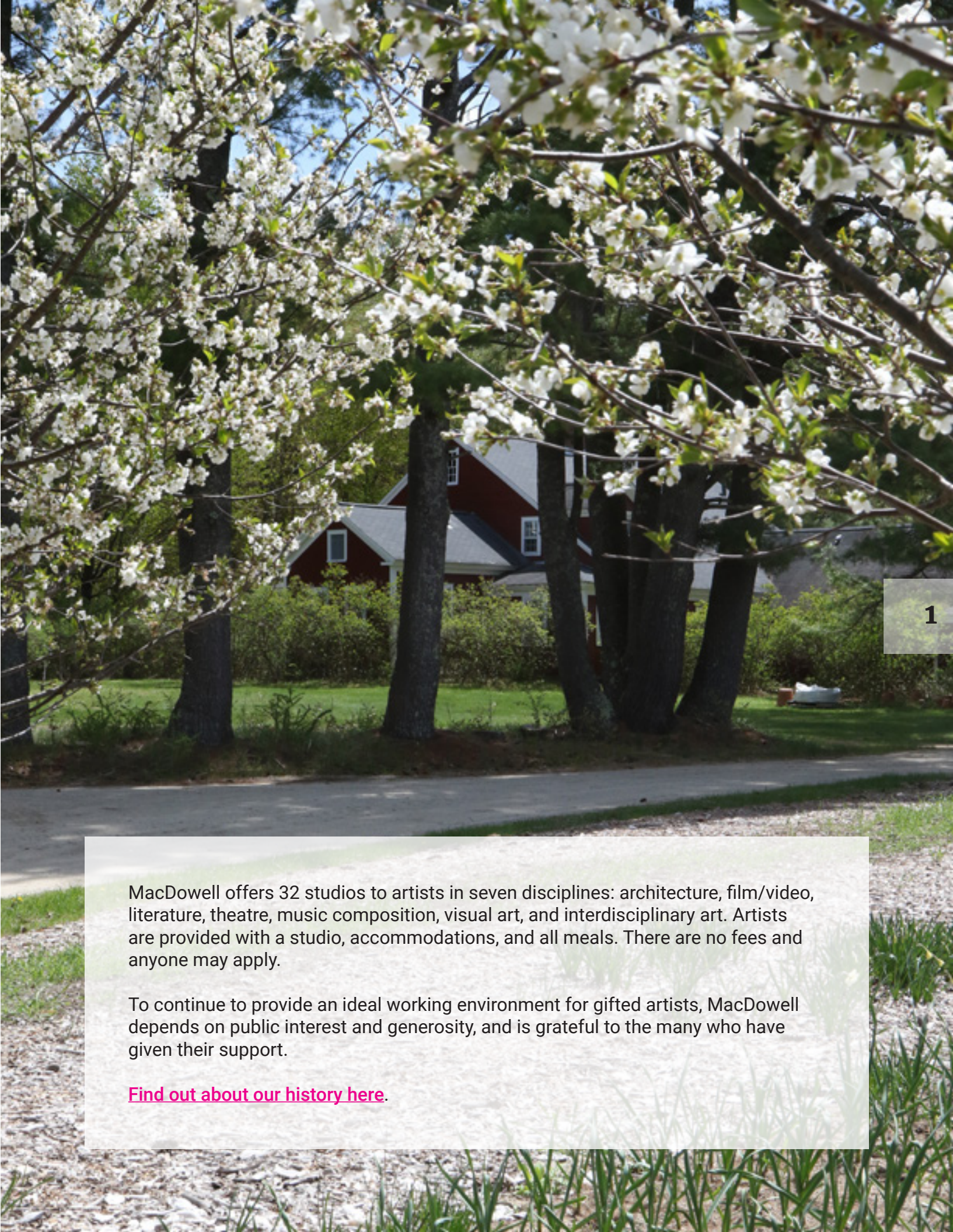
- Ecological sustainability on our campus in Peterborough and our office in New York City;

- Being active contributors to our local communities; and

- Maintaining our financial sustainability so as to continue delivering our mission through MacDowell's second century.

### ON THE COVER:

The Chibok Project; various paintings of various sizes in tempera, acrylic, and ink; sculptures of clay; Angela Fremont (98). April 2021 installation at ChaShaMa North. Made in response to the kidnapping of the 276 schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria in 2014. "For three years I struggled to make the girls, seated and hunched, until I saw the picture of the 82 freed girls, released in exchange for five Boko Haram members. Suddenly, I saw them as survivors, not victims, in their spirit of elation."



MacDowell offers 32 studios to artists in seven disciplines: architecture, film/video, literature, theatre, music composition, visual art, and interdisciplinary art. Artists are provided with a studio, accommodations, and all meals. There are no fees and anyone may apply.

To continue to provide an ideal working environment for gifted artists, MacDowell depends on public interest and generosity, and is grateful to the many who have given their support.

[Find out about our history here.](#)



# MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIR

## Service to Artists

An interim year, a year between the chaos of the pandemic and the glimmer of normal life's return, 2021 meant accommodating to contingency while we kept recuperation in view. I'm still amazed — and deeply impressed — by how MacDowell's staff and board first adjusted to 2020's challenges and then in 2021 stayed focused on our fundamentals of service to artists.

How had we managed the freedom to create when we never knew how the coronavirus would treat our artists and ourselves? We stayed nimble. We found new means to pull off our old tricks. Executive Director Philip Himberg's report gives you the account in more detail. I also want to thank the staff, first of all, and the board after that, for facing down the unknown. We stayed focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. We reached out online to new audiences. We made Roseanne Cash our 61st and first woman composer Edward MacDowell Medalist.

*Nell Painter*  
Madam Chairman of the MacDowell Board

DWIGHT CARTER







“

I listened. I listened to trees and creeks and leaves (who knew falling leaves sound like raindrops). To chickens and squirrels. I listened to the other artists in my cohort as we shared processes, fears, and failures. But mostly, I listened to the voice inside me that said, "This is what you can create with the time and space to do so."

—JANINE KOVAC, NONFICTION WRITER





# REPORT

PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Examining our Values

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2021 was a year in which the board and staff at MacDowell examined deeply how and why we do things. In some sense we took, as we regularly do with our studios, our organization “down to its studs” and rebuilt it. We restated our values and renovated our governance structure in the midst of the pandemic and in response to the social justice upheaval following George Floyd’s murder. In the following pages, Executive Director Phillip Himberg reviews the results of this work. MacDowell has emerged as an energized organization with a renewed, confident sense of its mission that has culminated with the addition of three new board members all not yet in their fifth decades, who reflect our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the pursuit of artistic excellence, and a staff rededicated to continuing Marian MacDowell’s good works.

*Andrew M. Senchak*  
President, MacDowell Board of Directors





## Ingenuity & Innovation

*"It has been said that the moment of not knowing is the moment that has the greatest potential for creativity."*

Robert Prosky, actor

At times, it amazes me how resilient we humans are. When I think about the last couple of years, about 2021 specifically, and even now in our present moment, I am left breathless by the unprecedented way in which the MacDowell staff and board work with genuine vision and creativity in support of our Fellows, assuring that time and space and community flourish in New Hampshire. These times may be unknowable, but out of this discomfort is born ingenuity and innovation.

Just like artists who face an empty page or canvas, MacDowell came to 2020 and 2021 in the vicissitudes of an uncharted pandemic and amid the renewed vigor of a Social Justice Movement.

I suppose if there is a theme that coursed through 2021, it is the ability of our cultural institution to remain true and fast to its mission, and yet flexible in how that mission is carried out. Being nimble and able to "pivot" was the dominant ingredient of this most unique time, and I imagine this process heralds a sort of new era, wherein the gifts of communication and collaboration are exalted and celebrated.

We began 2021 having only recently re-opened our campus in Peterborough three months earlier, after having to shutter in March 2020 as COVID-19 took root. The artist experience at the start of 2021 was different than what had come before. Under the thoughtful guidance of Resident Director David Macy, and with ongoing energy and support from the staff, new health protocols were put into place. We had the great fortune of receiving resourceful counsel from a MacDowell Fellow and physician, Dr. Ricardo Nuila, whose focus is epidemiology. On an ongoing basis, Dr. Nuila advised us on best methodologies for keeping our artists safe. Initially,

this meant that artists arrived and departed together in "cohorts" rather than under our usual rolling admission procedure, and we became very familiar with changing protocols on testing and isolation. As the year progressed, we were able to return to some key MacDowell activities such as allowing Fellows to safely dine together as well as being able to share their work in the evenings.

The heart of our work in 2021 was increasing our own self-knowledge around diversity, equity, inclusion, and access and how those concepts really resonated for our staff, board, and Fellows. We implemented a great range of new ideas including:

- **Virtual MacDowell.** In 2021 we launched a series of month-long online convenings for artist affinity groups. These included: artists who are parents or caretakers; Black artists; artists with disabilities; and Native and Indigenous artists. These cohorts were able to share work and their experiences of creating and maintaining life balance in the midst of change, and each group provided valuable feedback about how MacDowell might make improvements in our residency program.

- **Upgrades to physical accessibility on campus,** including electronic doors and lighted pathways. In addition, we initiated ideas for renewed access for our website for users with hearing and vision limitations.

- **Admissions explored ways to assure that the gates of access were open to all talented artists,** eventually voting to drop a long-standing reference letter requirement that served as an impediment to some applicants. We made assurances that our admissions panels were as diverse as our community of artists.

- **In the area of communications, we created a "Why MacDowell Now?" series** of commissioned essays written by Fellows on a range of subjects. These were published in e-newsletters, on our website, and were often picked up for further distribution by a range of publications. [This content is accessible for all](#) and has proven among the more popular pages on our website.





• Our New York Chelsea Space was not open to the public - and so we pivoted to a unique online collaboration with the 92nd Street Y where Chair Nell Painter and I hosted a series of provocative conversations on a range of topics. Panelists included Sally Field, Andrea Martin, **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Michael Chabon**, Garth Greenan, Linda C. Harrison, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Lonnie Bunch III, and **Riva Lehrer**. Not surprisingly, this online portal was by its nature more accessible. [These conversations can all be found here.](#)

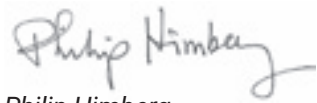
• One of the most impressive innovations was **Medal Day 2021**, postponed from the previous year. While we could not yet open the campus to as many attendees as usual, we created a new way of celebrating our Medalist, Rosanne Cash, the first woman to receive the Edward MacDowell Medal in Music Composition. Held in Bond Hall at MacDowell, Ms. Cash was celebrated by an invited audience of 125, and this event was filmed by New Hampshire PBS and distributed throughout New England. Singer-songwriter Emmylou Harris joined Rosanne for an extraordinary event. [You can watch the NHPBS special broadcast here.](#)

• Our 2021 Gala was filmed (for the second consecutive year), and the 2nd Annual Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award was bequeathed on Urban Word and its Artistic Director, poet Mahogany Browne. Patrons gathered at a number of private homes from East

and West coasts, as well as at our Chelsea offices, to support and champion the residency. Our fundraising was not without challenges and yet, we did reach our goals – a testament to the vitality and critical importance of MacDowell at this time.

• The Board of Directors of MacDowell began a rigorous process to articulate a renewed set of Core Values that would serve as our touchstone as we move forward having to negotiate a wide range of decisions in a changing universe. These values are part of a mission, values, and vision statement and [are now posted on the MacDowell website](#), and serve as a kind of North Star as we navigate the ship that is MacDowell forward on its journey.

2021 has been a most unusual time to carry and share the responsibility of an artist residency. I am indebted to the MacDowell staff and board, and to the foundations, individuals, and corporations that came together to secure our success. There is no doubt that MacDowell’s future is assured, and that artists from across the country and the world will continue to have a bucolic and dynamic place in which to make new work that helps transform our society and our culture.

  
Philip Himberg  
Executive Director



In a brief departure from our typical staggered arrivals process, in early 2021 Fellows arrived in concurrent cohorts. Here, staff members Dan Millbauer (far right) and Ann Hayashi (far left) give a new group an introductory tour outside the main hall.





**FELLOW**

Constance Vale

**DISCIPLINE**

architecture - text

**WORK AT MACDOWELL**

Vale developed her manuscript for her book *Decoys & Depictions: Images of the Digital*, which will be published by Actar and carries forward ideas from a symposium she presented and a set of three exhibitions she curated and exhibited at Washington University in St. Louis.





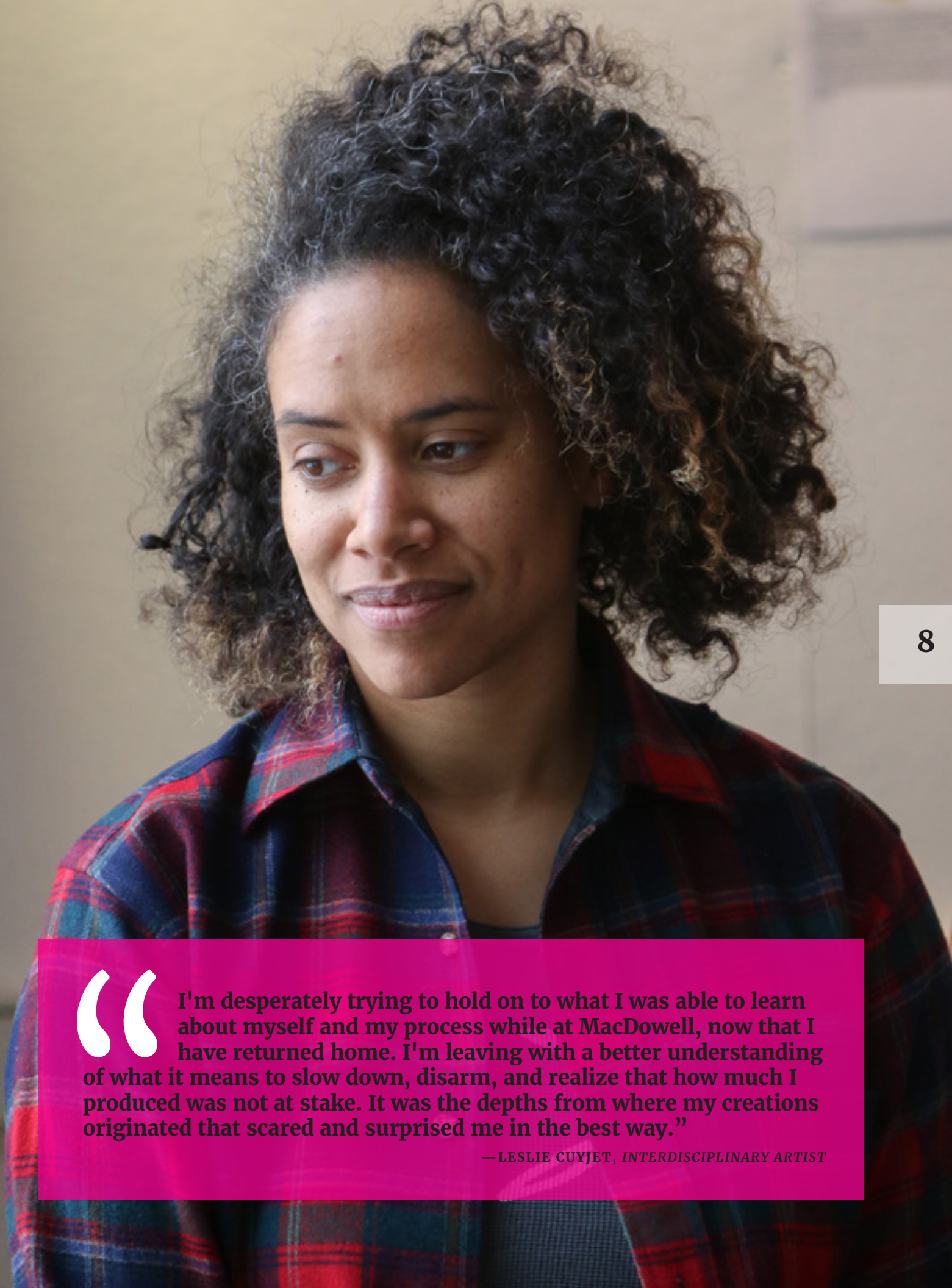
MACDOWELL FELLOW

Margaret Malone

MacDowell provided me with a clearly defined period of protected mental space and limitless time wandering in the natural world. This magical combination allowed for a deep connection to my process and to the book I've been working on for the past year and a half. The gift of time and space made it easier for me to hear what the project had been hungry to become. During

my residency at MacDowell, I was able to listen, in a way that is not possible in the chaos and duties of my regular life, and the book is now headed in an exciting and innovative new direction. Equally as essential was the creative conversation, inspiration, friendship and trust that developed over the course of my residency with the other artists. The synthesis of unstructured possibility and creative community I found at MacDowell proved monumental at the precise moment this

project needed it the most. The impact of the experience cannot be overstated, and left me with profound gratitude. The opportunity to nurture the book and deepen trust in my own writing process has had profound repercussions in my creative life, to say nothing of the creative friendships that will grow for years to come. My time at MacDowell changed me in fundamental ways as a person and an artist. Margaret Malone, *fiction writer*



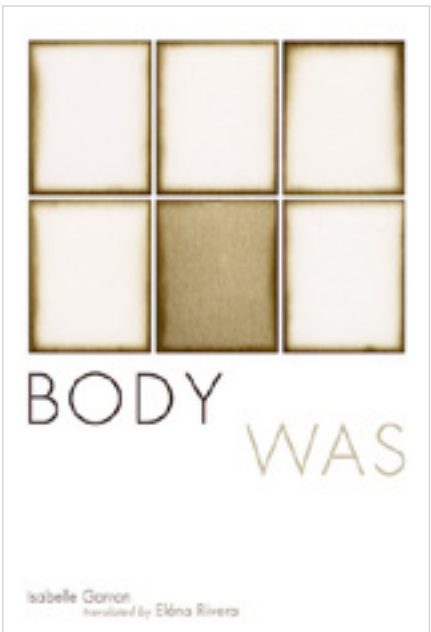
“I'm desperately trying to hold on to what I was able to learn about myself and my process while at MacDowell, now that I have returned home. I'm leaving with a better understanding of what it means to slow down, disarm, and realize that how much I produced was not at stake. It was the depths from where my creations originated that scared and surprised me in the best way.” —LESLIE CUYJET, INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST



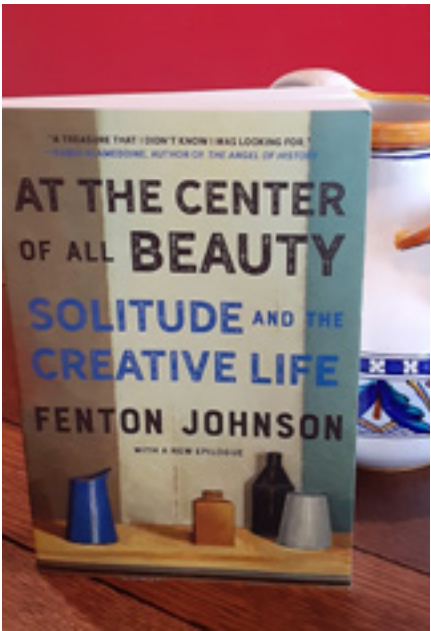
# Published Work by MacDowell Fellows



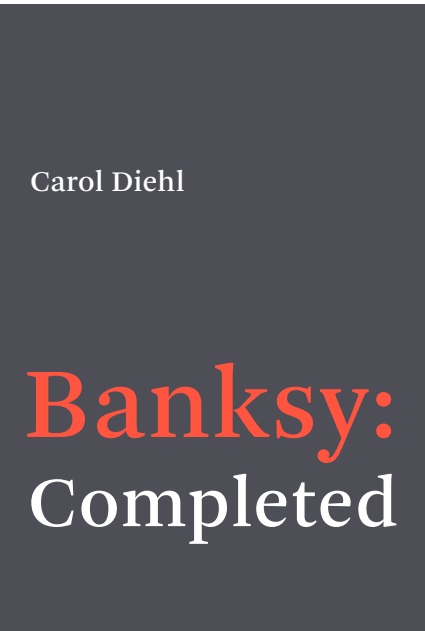
Poet Eléna Rivera (05, 20) had three books released in 2021: (From left) A translation of Isabelle Baladine Howald's *Phantomb* and Isabelle Garron's book-length poem *Body Was: Suites & their variations*, both from the French, as well as her most recent collection of three long poems, *Epic Series*, the cover of which features the work of Fellow Rehab El Sadek (20).



Fiction writer Lucy Ferriss's (86, 87) new story collection *Foreign Climes* received the Brighthorse Books Prize.



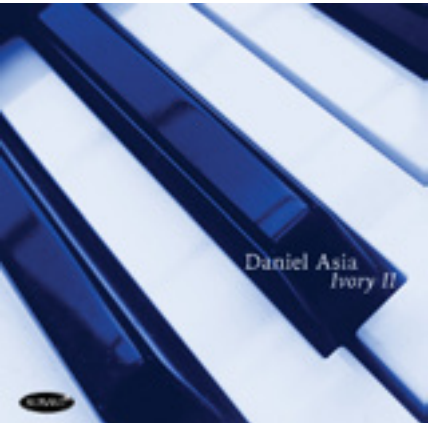
Nonfiction writer Fenton Johnson's (91, 01) paperback of *At the Center of All Beauty* was released early in 2021.



Painter Carol Diehl (95, 97) has written one of the first books that probes the Banksy mystery.



Barbara White's (4x 89-97) CD *Farewell to Music* was a commission from shakuhachi performer Riley Lee.



*Ivory II* from Daniel Asia (79) is a new collection of short works spanning compositions from 1975-2017.



*Music for Chamber Orchestra* from Joel Feigin (80, 85) features piano by Yael Weiss and the voice of John Savournin.



Kim D. Sherman (82) released a volume of piano solos entitled *Unfathomable Things: Fifteen Stories for Solo Piano*.



Orlando Jacinto Garcia (14) released an album of string quartets, one of which earned a Latin Grammy nomination.



Robert Carl's (88, 98, 05) *White Heron* is a CD of orchestra works released by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.



Poet Denise Duhamel's (89, 90, 00, 04) collection *Second Story* was released by University of Pittsburgh Press.

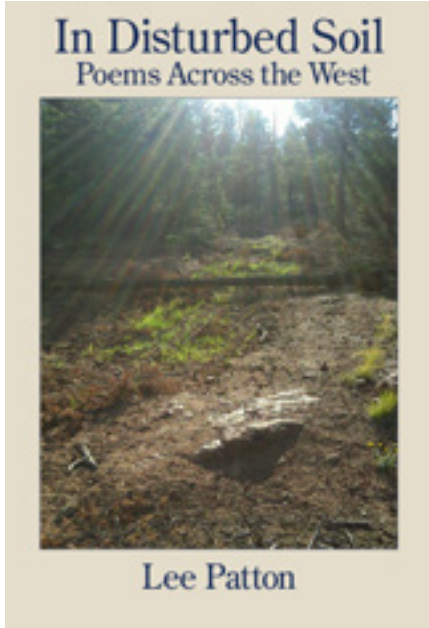


Composer Amelia Kaplan (04) released *String Music* on Albany Records this year. It's a solo CD of compositions all featuring stringed instruments.



Jesús Castillo (18) released *Two Murals*, two long poems reflecting on the past and the uncertainty of the future.

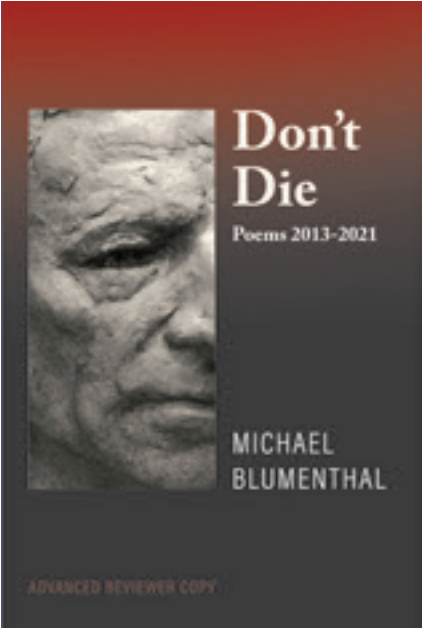




*In Disturbed Soil* is a poetry collection from Lee Patton (95) who also published two novels in 2021.



*Vamp Until Ready* is a comic novel from James Magruder (5x 01-18) set around a summer stock theatre group.



Michael Blumenthal (80, 81, 84) has released a new poetry collection, *Don't Die: Poems 2013-2021*.



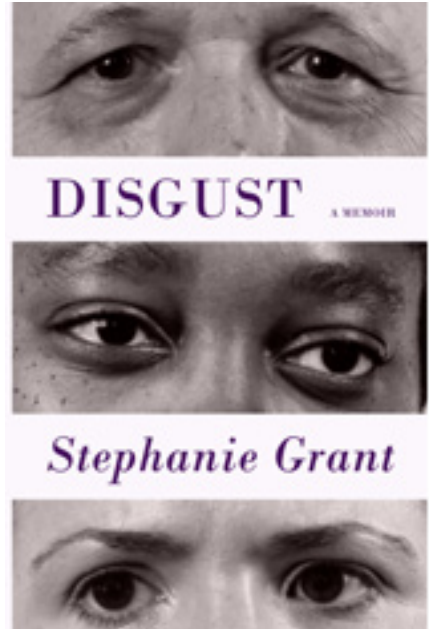
Myra Shapiro's (84, 86) *When the World Walks Toward You* features cover art, *Strange Birds*, by Josh Dorman (19).



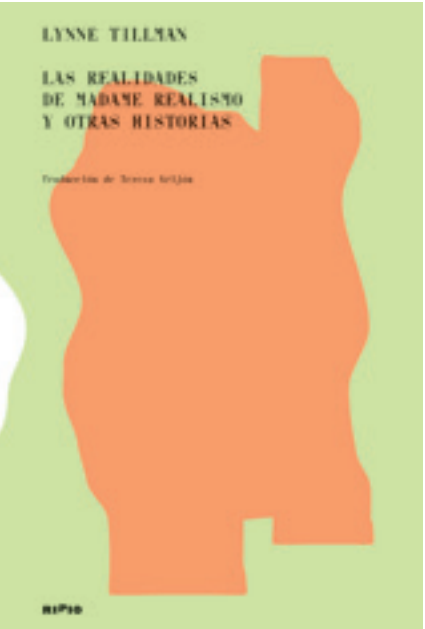
A new novel from Pierre Fréha (84), *Bella Ciao Istanbul*, was released in the original French.



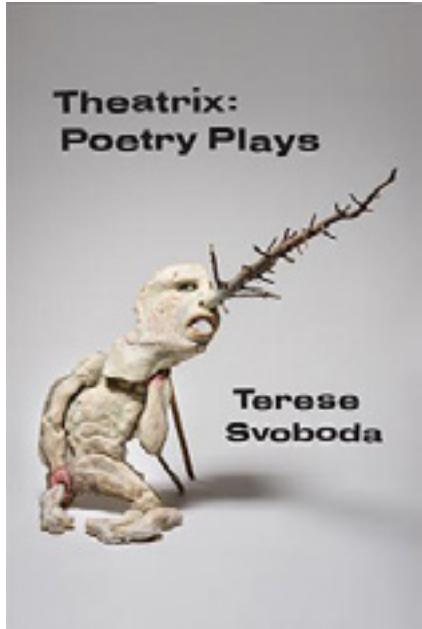
Sarah Schulman's (9x 86-19) latest work is a NY Times Editor's Choice, NY Times Notable Book, and PEN finalist.



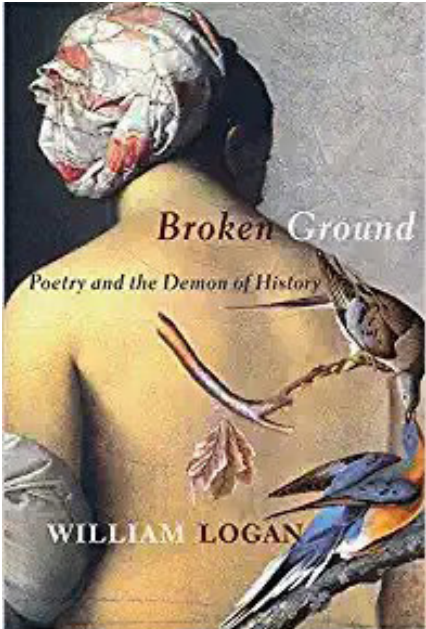
Stephanie Grant (6x 94-07) has released a memoir, *Disgust*, a look into three generations of self-disgust.



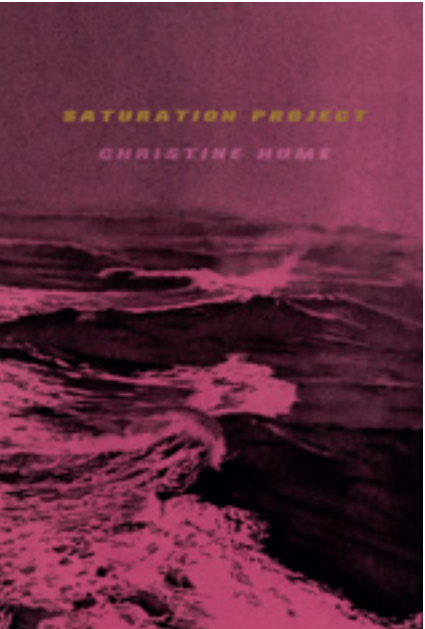
Lynne Tillman (11x 92-15) published the Spanish version of *The Complete Madame Realism and Other Stories*.



Terese Svoboda (79, 13, 22) released her eighth poetry collection, *Theatrix: Poetry Plays*.



*Broken Ground* from William Logan (76, 77, 78) is a book of essays about canonical and contemporary poets.



*Saturation Project* is an experimental memoir and linked collection of essays from poet Christine Hume (03).



Dennis Nurkse (14x 93-21) released *A Country of Strangers*, his 12th poetry collection.





Ten Thirty Eight by Josh Dorman (19)



Ghost by Cynthia Ona Innis (05)

To Feel Something That Was Not of Our World by Nina Katchadourian (95)

Temporal Shift by Alyson Shotz (22)



From Persephone's Garden by Olivia Parker (93)



Angels with Dirty Faces by Gelah Penn (89)

Prague Ghetto, for K by Len Jenkin (7x 84-19)





Reading of *The Cartography of a Sinner's View* by Charles Fort (96)

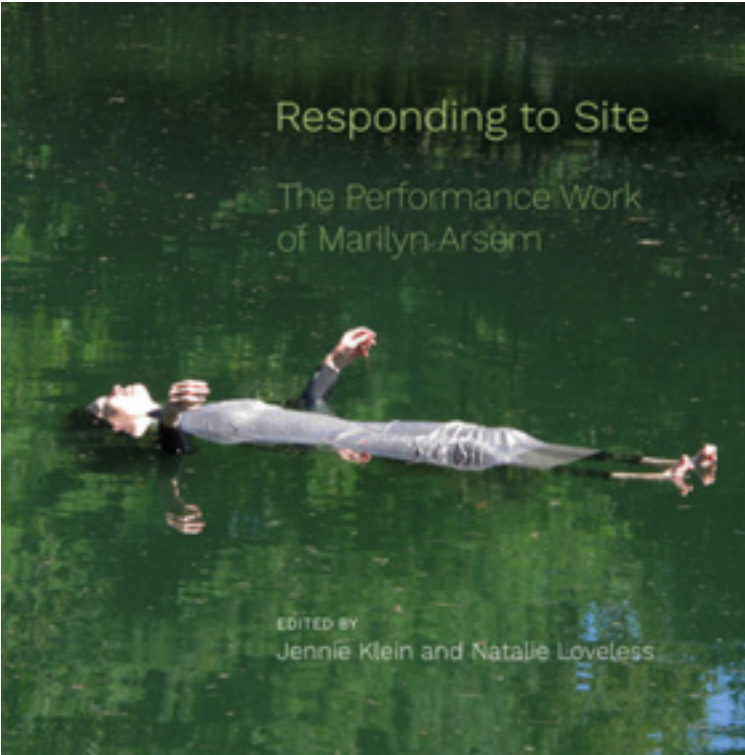


*Origin of the Species* by Abigail Child (9x 83-99)

*Responding to Site: The Performance Work of Marilyn Arsem, with essays and photos by Marilyn Arsem* (85, 92, 97)



*Tell Everyone: Fragments of Sappho* for chamber chorus by Peter B. Child (82, 84, 85)



*Close Apart with poetry* by Beatrix Gates (95, 07, 15)



*La Comida* by Edward Pomerantz (70, 77)



*Sojourners* by Eva Lee (04, 06, 08)



# FEC



The Fellows Executive Committee (FEC) is using 2022 as a year for deep self-reflection, transition, and growth. During this time, we will consider MacDowell's Core Values Statement and ask ourselves: How can we better align ourselves as a committee of Fellows? As the

FEC continues to work on these matters during 2022, we will plan our NYC Fellows Reunion event to be held in late fall.

The last year has seen progress for all FEC initiatives. Briefly:

### The 2021 NYC Reunion was a grand success!

In 2021, we held our in-person reunion on Saturday, November 13th at Berry Park bar and restaurant in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. More than 70 Fellows met in the afternoon to talk, laugh, and reconnect. The 2021 reunion felt so needed as many Fellows had not gathered in-person with other Fellows or artists in more than two years due to the ongoing pandemic. Our raffle featured four Peterboro Basket Company picnic baskets filled with donations of Fellows art, books, and CDs. The money raised was designated for Baldwin Fellow stipends.



Inspirational text on the wall during Abbey Mei Otis's 2021 residency in Putnam Studio.

### Our first Virtual MacDowell/FEC Mixer was held on April 11th

More than 30 FEC and Virtual MacDowell members met for the first time via Zoom. During this virtual event, we worked together to answer prompts about what Fellows want from an alumni program, what Fellows need before, during, and after their residencies, and what a Virtual MacDowell/FEC partnership might look like. We hope to continue meeting with the VM Fellows going forward and foster a meaningful partnership.

### Regional Fellow Reunions

Since my last report, Daniel Simmons (Toronto

Regional Liaison) held a Zoom reunion for Fellows in Canada. Leighton Beaman (Ithaca Liaison) and Brian Arnold will hold an in-person gathering for Fellows in central and western New York in Fall 2022.

### FEC Member Gatherings

Teatime is our monthly FEC virtual gathering. The last was held in September.

### Updated FEC MacDowell Webpage

FEC officers worked with the office to update our webpage with new text and images.

The next FEC meeting will take place virtually to continue discussion about our **November 19 2022 Fall NYC Fellows Reunion**.

### Current FEC Membership

#### OFFICERS:

##### President:

Rosemarie Fiore, *Visual Art*

##### Vice President:

Paula Whyman, *Literature*

##### Treasurer:

Martha Mooke, *Music Composition*

##### Secretary:

Scott Adkins, *Interdisciplinary Art*

#### MEMBERS:

Eliosia Amezcua, *Literature*

Brian Arnold, *Visual Art*

Teri Hackett, *Visual Art*

DaMaris Hill, *Literature*

Nene Humphrey, *Visual Art*

Emily Noelle Lambert, *Visual Art*

Abigail Levine, *Interdisciplinary Art*

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė, *Music Composition*

Frank Melendez, *Architecture*

Brian Rogers, *Interdisciplinary Art*

Eleonor Sandresky, *Music Composition*

Amanda Stern, *Literature*

Trevor Weston, *Music Composition*

Amy Yee, *Literature*

#### EMERITUS MEMBERS:

Dionne Ford, *Literature*

Michael Harrison, *Music Composition*

Larry Krone, *Interdisciplinary Art*

Wendy Richmond, *Interdisciplinary Art*

Scott Wheeler, *Music Composition*

Jason Van Nest, *Architecture*

#### REGIONAL LIAISONS:

**Philadelphia:** Kerry Dolan, *Literature*

**Florida:** Meghan Moe Beitiks, *Visual Art*

**Boston:** Barbara Trachtenberg, *Visual Art*

**Ohio:** Moriel Rothman-Zecher, *Literature*

**New Orleans:** Lindsay Sproul, *Literature*

**Ithaca:** Leighton Beaman, *Architecture*

**Toronto Canada:** Daniel Simmons, *Visual Art*

**Los Angeles:** Tess Taylor, *Literature*



# ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

FELLOW  
James Leng

DISCIPLINE  
architectural design

WORK AT MACDOWELL  
Leng created a series of  
speculative architectural models  
incorporating various natural  
materials found throughout  
MacDowell's property.



ARCHITECTS

- Sarah Aziz, Denver, CO
- Ashley Bigham, Columbus, OH
- Jessica Colangelo, Fayetteville, AR
- Luke Erickson, Brooklyn, NY
- Chelsea Garunay, Somerville, MA
- Lisa Haber-Thomson, Cambridge, MA
- James Leng, San Francisco, CA
- Suzanne Mathew, Providence, RI
- Charles Sharpless, Fayetteville, AR
- Constance Vale, St. Louis, MO

COMPOSERS

- Jamie Baum, New York, NY
- Andrea Clearfield, Philadelphia, PA
- Caleb Curtis, Brooklyn, NY
- Ian Dicke, Claremont, CA
- Marty Ehrlich, Brooklyn, NY
- Ricardo Gallo, Sunnyside, NY
- Pierce Gradone, Chicago, IL
- Ted Hearne, Los Angeles, CA
- Peter Kronreif, Brooklyn, NY
- Anne LeBaron, Valencia, CA
- Sarah Manning, Brooklyn, NY
- Marta Sanchez, Brooklyn, NY
- Laura Schwendinger, Madison, WI
- Steven Snowden, Pepperell, MA
- Steven Takasugi, Waban, MA
- Nina C. Young, New York, NY



“ This is the most welcoming, open, and generous community of artists I've ever had the privilege to be a part of. The staff set the tone, and the artists I was in residence with created an atmosphere of nurturing and supportive dialogue. The time and solitude are what I expected, but the community was the best thing I'm taking away from it.”

—CHELSEA GARUNAY, ARCHITECT





“ I can confidently say MacDowell was a life-changing experience for me. I found strength and footing in the new path I recently started on as a musician, adding lyric and songwriting to my means of expression – and I produced what I feel was by far my strongest work yet.”

—PETER KRONREIF, COMPOSER



### FILM/VIDEO ARTISTS

Daniel Chew, Brooklyn, NY

Micaela Durand, Brooklyn, NY

Dina Fiasconaro, Baltimore, MD

Traci Hercher, Brooklyn, NY

Sky Hopinka, Hudson, NY

Corey Hughes, Baltimore, MD

Sarah E. Jenkins, Wellsville, NY

William E. Jones, Los Angeles, CA

Stanya Kahn, Los Angeles, CA

Lev Kalman, San Diego, CA

Jessica Kingdon, Brooklyn, NY

Young Joo Lee, Pasadena, CA

Jodie Mack, Hanover, NH

Cynthia Madansky, Brooklyn, NY

Ryan McKenna, Montreal, Québec, CANADA

Naeem Mohaiemen, Brooklyn, NY

Matthew Rankin, Montréal, Québec, CANADA

Deborah Stratman, Chicago, IL

Nathan Truesdell, Brooklyn, NY

“ I began work on an entirely new project, however, I also began to reconsider previous work with a fresh perspective. I identified deep threads within my work that had gone formerly unnoticed. I never imagined that a single month could provide me with such a greater understanding of my own practice.”

—JORDIE OETKEN, PHOTOGRAPHER





INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTISTS

- Shimon Attie, New York, NY
- Pedram Baldari, Minneapolis, MN
- Ashon Crawley, Charlottesville, VA
- Leslie Cuyjet, Brooklyn, NY
- Elena Demyanenko, Brooklyn, NY
- Jeffrey Halstead, Catskill, NY
- Jibade-Khalil Huffman, Winston-Salem, NC
- Jmy James Kidd, Landers, CA
- Allison Orr, Austin, TX
- Rae Red, Baltimore, MD
- Julie Tolentino, Mill Valley, CA
- Ronaldo Wilson, Santa Cruz, CA

THEATRE ARTISTS

- Brittany Allen, Brooklyn, NY
- Steven Cosson, Brooklyn, NY
- Milo Cramer, Redding, CT
- Andrea Kato, San Francisco, CA
- Erika Land, Macon, GA
- Haruna Lee, Brooklyn, NY
- Francisco Mendoza, Brooklyn, NY
- Donna Oblongata, Philadelphia, PA
- Stav Palti Negev, Brooklyn, NY
- Chana Porter, Los Angeles, CA
- KJ Sanchez, Austin, TX
- Yekaterina Stanislavskaya, New Paltz, NY
- Lisa Thompson, Austin, TX
- Kathleen Tolan, Brooklyn, NY



FELLOW  
Julie Tolentino

DISCIPLINE  
interdisciplinary art

WORK AT MACDOWELL  
Tolentino worked on new commissions, created prototypes using leather, glass, and mirrors, and completed an audio work as part of the collective, What Would an HIV Doula Do? (WWHIVDD) for debut at the Walker Art Center in autumn of 2021.



VISUAL ARTISTS

- Phoebe Adams, Phippsburg, ME
- Fanny Allié, Brooklyn, NY
- Rachel Breen, Minneapolis, MN
- John Chae, Richmond, VA
- Gohar Dashti, Cambridge, MA
- Angela Dufresne, Fleischmanns, NY
- Kristen Emack, Cambridge, MA
- Erick Hernandez, Miami, FL
- Mala Iqbal, New York, NY
- Tatana Kellner, Kingston, NY
- Courtney McClellan, Atlanta, GA
- Dustin Metz, Los Angeles, CA
- Abraham Murley, London, UNITED KINGDOM
- Jordie Oetken, Los Angeles, CA
- Alison Pebworth, San Francisco, CA
- Claudia Peña Salinas, Brooklyn, NY
- Gina Ruggeri, Brooklyn, NY
- Wayne White, Los Angeles, CA

FELLOW  
Abraham Murley

DISCIPLINE  
visual art

WORK AT MACDOWELL  
Murley made drawings and paintings of the MacDowell landscape as well as portraits and images from memory, dreams, and fiction.



WRITERS

- Yelena Akhtiorskaya, New York, NY
- Kemi Alabi, Chicago, IL
- Shane Bauer, Oakland, CA
- Clare Beams, Pittsburgh, PA
- Georgina Beaty, Berkeley, CA
- Nicholas Boggs, Brooklyn, NY
- Rukmini Callimachi, Montclair, NJ
- Jordan Casomar, Washington, D.C.
- Matthew Clark, Bath, ME
- Skye Cleary, New York, NY
- Lydia Conklin, Berkeley, CA
- Flower Conroy, Slidell, LA
- Leela Corman, Providence, RI
- Jennifer Croft, Tulsa, OK
- Bailey Cunningham, Seattle, WA
- Alice Elliott Dark, Montclair, NJ
- Sharon Dolin, New York, NY
- Kali Fajardo-Anstine, Arvada, CO
- Dewaine Farria, Manila, PHILIPPINES
- Melissa Febos, Iowa City, IA
- Joshua Ferris, Hudson, NY
- Victoria Ford, Washington, DC
- Ross Gay, Bloomington, IN
- Eugene Gloria, Greencastle, IN
- Jennifer Haigh, Roslindale, MA
- J.C. Hallman, Brooklyn, NY
- Jared Jackson, New York, NY
- Tatiana Johnson-Boria, Boston, MA
- Tennessee Jones, Brooklyn, NY
- Anjali Khosla, Brooklyn, NY



- Lisa Ko, Brooklyn, NY
- Laura Kolbe, Brooklyn, NY
- Christopher Kondrich, University Park, MD
- Janine Kovac, Oakland, CA
- Matthew Lansburgh, New York, NY
- Margaret Malone, Portland, OR
- Peter Manseau, Annapolis, MD
- Dawn Lundy Martin, Pittsburgh, PA
- Katie Moulton, Baltimore, MD
- Jennifer Neal, Berlin, GERMANY
- Dennis Nurkse, Brooklyn, NY
- Peter Orner, Norwich, VT
- Abbey Otis, Minneapolis, MN
- Nell Painter, Newark, NJ
- Cecily Parks, Austin, TX
- Micah Perks, Santa Cruz, CA
- Paulina Pinsky, Brooklyn, NY
- Kirstin Valdez Quade, Princeton, NJ
- Lance Richardson, Philadelphia, PA
- Em Rose, New York, NY
- Mira Rosenthal, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Robyn Schiff, Decatur, GA
- Alanna Schubach, Brooklyn, NY
- David Schuman, St. Louis, MO
- Mosi Secret, Brooklyn, NY
- Heather Sellers, Tampa, FL
- Asako Serizawa, Brookline, MA
- Jeff Sharlet, Norwich, VT
- Rone Shavers, Albany, NY
- Dash Shaw, Richmond, VA
- Sebastian Smee, Somerville, MA



- Donna Spruijt-Metz, Los Angeles, CA
- Anna Sussman, New York, NY
- Rachel Swarns, Montclair, NJ
- Deborah Taffa, Santa Fe, NM
- Taryn Tilton, Los Angeles, CA
- Rachael Warecki, Los Angeles, CA
- LaToya Watkins, Rowlett, TX
- Jennifer Wortman, Lafayette, CO
- Joyce Zonana, Windham, NY

**“ I felt trusted at MacDowell to spend my time in ways that were important to me, to heal from the stress of the pandemic and unemployment. I felt the respect for my time, my being, my work in every decision MacDowell made. I think that being so respected and cared for by an outside entity has made me want to better respect and care for myself.”**  
— ABBEY OTIS, FICTION WRITER





FELLOW  
**Ross Gay**  
DISCIPLINE  
**poetry**  
WORK AT MACDOWELL  
Ross Gay is a poet, essayist, and professor who won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award for *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, which was also a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry. At MacDowell, he wrote new poems.

MACDOWELL FELLOW

**Stav Palti Negev**

My residency was perfect on many different levels. I feel revived and rested after spending two weeks in the beautiful surroundings of MacDowell. During my stay, I felt that I was being taken care of to the smallest details. The studio was equipped with everything I needed, the food was delicious and plentiful, and everyone on staff was warm, kind, and welcoming. It made me feel at home (more of an idyllic dream home than my actual home)

and allowed me to relax and put aside my everyday concerns.  
On an artistic level, I managed to write almost a full play during my stay. Having this new play that I envisioned for so long but didn't have the time to write, takes me a huge step forward. Now I have a play that I will soon be able to share with theaters. I would never be able to accomplish that if I was working on this play from home. Thanks to MacDowell, I managed to find the balance and concentration I wasn't able to achieve in a long time.  
And on a very personal level: MacDowell allowed me to bring

my baby with me to the residency. This made a HUGE difference for me as a new mom. I would never be able to travel and leave my baby behind, and having the possibility of bringing him along, and having him with me in my studio, was a real game-changer. It gave me the freedom to create while also taking care of my family. It mostly allowed me not having to choose between my career and my son, which makes a vital difference in my life. It proved to me that I can be both a mother and a writer, something I was not so sure about before my residency.





# EVENTS



## Hybrid National Benefit Celebrates Creative Collaborations

MacDowell engaged more than 250 virtual and in-person guests during our hybrid 2021 benefit in December hosted by **Cathy Park Hong** (7x 03-18) and featured the presentation of the Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award to Urban Word. Artistic Director of Urban Word NYC and Poet-in-Residence at Lincoln Center, Mahogany L. Browne, accepted the award on their behalf. The presentation was followed by a performance from the 2022 NYC Youth Poet Laureate Elizabeth Shvarts accompanied by Fellow **Raphael Xavier** who danced to Shvarts's cadenced delivery. The virtual benefit program, focusing on the magic of creative collaboration at MacDowell, also featured performance excerpts, speeches, and interviews with Fellows **Shaina Taub**, **Sharon Greytak**, **Anne Beal** and **Christopher Zuar**, **Patricia Smith**, **John Murillo**, **Cheryl Savageau**, **Peter Zuspan**, and more! It was an opportunity to experience and celebrate some of the magic that happens at MacDowell when artists – writers, visual artists, composers, architects, interdisciplinary artists, filmmakers, and theatre artists – engage in artistic exchange to create new works. Donors tuned in virtually, hosted parties at their homes, participated in our online auction, and received at-home picnic baskets of artisanal snacks from Mayfair Farms featuring books released in 2021 and works of art by Fellows. [Watch the recording here.](#)

Mahogany L. Browne, Nell Painter, and Philip Himberg pose for a selfie during recording at National Sawdust. *Christian Holland photo*



# MEDAL DAY 2021

## Rosanne Cash Awarded 61st MacDowell Medal in Televised Event

After a year’s hiatus, MacDowell’s Medal Day celebration returned as Grammy-winning composer and performer Rosanne Cash became the 61st Edward MacDowell Medal recipient during a New Hampshire PBS televised special that premiered on Sunday, August 8. Cash arrived at MacDowell on June 29th for several days of filming that included studio tours with artists-in-residence, an interview in the **James Baldwin Library** with cartoonist Roz Chast, a medal ceremony in our main hall, and, for the first time ever, a live performance featuring the Medalist as well as her friend and Grammy-winner Emmylou Harris and Grammy-winner John Leventhal, Cash’s husband. Cash, the first woman to win the Medal in composition, was chosen for the honor by a Medal selection panel consisting of author and longtime music critic Greil Marcus; music critic and arts administrator John Rockwell; musicologist, author, and professor Mary E. Davis; Yale University professor and cultural critic Daphne Brooks; and MacDowell Board member and WQXR radio host Terrance McKnight. The ceremony included an introduction explaining Cash’s contributions to American culture by author Kurt Andersen and an Indigenous land acknowledgment

offered by poet and MacDowell Fellow **Cheryl Savageau** before a masked audience of 157 guests. The event raised \$61,120 toward our \$75,000 goal in Rosanne’s honor. The special 30-minute co-production with NHPBS, “Rosanne Cash at MacDowell,” can be seen on our website and offers viewers a front-row seat to MacDowell’s Medal Day. [Watch the program here.](#)

**Toast to Rosanne Cash in New York in October Caps \$75K for Fellowships Funding**  
In October, about 40 vaccinated people made up of Rosanne Cash’s friends and family, as well as a handful of MacDowell supporters, gathered at MacDowell’s Chelsea, NY offices to celebrate the national distribution of “Rosanne Cash at MacDowell.” The MacDowell NYC event pushed us over our goal of fully funding the equivalent of three Fellowships in Rosanne’s honor.

➤ (Clockwise from top) Madam Chairman of the Board **Nell Painter** presents Rosanne Cash with the 61st Edward MacDowell Medal, a PBS film crew captured Cash’s visits with Fellows, Cash performed a song for the Medal Day crowd accompanied by her husband, Grammy winner John Leventhal.



JOANNA ELDREDGE MORRISSEY



CHRISTIAN HOLLAND



JOANNA ELDREDGE MORRISSEY



I Was Becoming: A Reading and Conversation with Four Authors

MacDowell and The Rona Jaffe Foundation celebrated 14 years of partnership supporting emerging women writers with a virtual reading and Q&A featuring **Elif Batuman** (18), **Chelsea Bieker** (14), and **Monica Sok** (16) in February. The event began with readings that were then followed by a 30-minute Q&A with questions collected in advance from members of the public. Author, MacDowell Fellow, and MacDowell board member **Julie Orringer** (05, 06, 08) moderated. “The foundation is delighted to co-sponsor this event with MacDowell to celebrate both our lasting relationship and our mutual mission in supporting creative artists,” said Executive Director of The Rona Jaffe Foundation Beth McCabe. “This collaboration is part of the foundation’s ongoing effort to recognize and support some of our most vital cultural institutions and



literary nonprofits in our country. Our fellowship with MacDowell is one of many we sponsor throughout the nation to help women build successful writing lives. We are so pleased to have been able to provide support to Elif, Chelsea, Monica, and Julie at important junctures in their careers and it’s wonderful to bring them together with MacDowell for this special evening.” You can find the video of the hour-long presentation at [macdowell.org/events](http://macdowell.org/events).

92nd Street Y Series Modeled on MacDowell Dinner Conversation

Over the course of 2021, the 92nd Street Y and MacDowell co-produced a multidisciplinary series of conversations inaugurated in 2020 about creativity and the arts. It served to capture the magic of artists-in-residence from every discipline coming together at MacDowell. It featured conversations curated and hosted by MacDowell Fellow, author, visual artist, and MacDowell

Board Chair **Nell Painter** (3x 16-21). Videos of all our 92Y series events can be found at: [www.macdowell.org/events/2021-92y-mac-dowell-series-2021](http://www.macdowell.org/events/2021-92y-mac-dowell-series-2021). “The Enactment of Identity” on May 6th included memoirist and theatre artist P. Carl and novelists **Michael Chabon** (13x 96-17) and Chang-rae Lee. In conversation with Painter, these four esteemed creators discussed the relationship between the artist’s vision, the construction of character and story, and the ways their own individual and social identities interact with their practices. “Excellence, Aesthetics, and Value” on July 15th featured a discussion between Nell and Newark Museum of Art Director Linda C. Harrison, distinguished visual artist and MacDowell Fellow **Joyce Kozloff** (99), and path-breaking gallerist Garth Greenan deconstructing the abstract art terms excellence, aesthetics, and value. These are lofty terms, but what are the actual decisions, the actual steps, that move art from the studio to the gallery to the museum where we see art, when White and male artists seemed for so long to monopolize excellence, aesthetics, and value, and engaged art, especially by artists of color and White women, was dismissed as mere illustration? “On Memoir” on August 26th featured MacDowell Executive Director Philip Himberg moderating a discussion with actor and writer Sally Field, and MacDowell Fellows in literature **Nell Painter** (16, 19), **T Kira Madden** (14, 16), and **Riva Lehrer** (17). Their conversation showcased how artists share their visions and challenges across every art form while in residence at MacDowell, but focused on the animating impulse that drove these multidisciplinary



"On Memoir" was the August installation of 92Y series and it featured Sally Field, Nell Painter (16, 19), T Kira Madden (14, 16), and Riva Lehrer (17).

artists to examine the arc of their lives in memoir form. The final talk in the series took place on November 1, 2021 and was titled “The Relationship of Money To Art.” It included Mary Schmidt Campbell (founding executive director of the Studio Museum in Harlem and currently president of Spelman College), Lonnie Bunch (founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and currently Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution) and Marc Payot (president of the international art gallery Hauser & Wirth). They spoke with Painter about what abundant resources — as well as the lack thereof — can mean for how we, the public, see art.

Katherine Min Fellowship Virtual Event on Zoom

More than 300 supporters, family, and friends gathered to celebrate the completed funding of our permanently endowed Katherine Min Fellowship with an evening of readings and celebration on Zoom on March 30, 2021. Fellows **Victoria Chang** (19)—the inaugural recipient of the Katherine Min Fellowship—and **Cathy Park**

**Hong** (7x 03-18) read from their work, and Katherine’s daughter, Kayla Min Andrews, read selections from her mother’s work and her own. After the readings, **Marie Myung-Ok Lee** (04) moderated a commemoration of Katherine’s life. Katherine Min, a writer and educator who died in 2019, held eight residencies at MacDowell between 1995 and 2013. During her 2001 residency, she finished the first draft of her novel *Secondhand World*, which was a finalist for the PEN/Bingham Prize. Along with the uninterrupted time to write, Katherine loved MacDowell for its picnic basket lunches, friendly pool games, late night dance parties, and the opportunity to meet and share work with other artists. She cherished the lifelong friendships she made at MacDowell and was a beloved member of the MacDowell community. In honor of her life and legacy, her family and friends established the Katherine Min Fellowship for Asian American writers at MacDowell, a permanently endowed fellowship will allow MacDowell to continue to elevate Asian American voices and to strengthen relationships with the Asian American writers community.

Virtual Reunion and Workshares Keep Fellows Connected

Starting in April 2020, our Virtual Reunion and Workshare program continued through June of 2021. Fellows were invited to present and meet virtually with others from around the world. We held nine workshares in the first six months of 2021 featuring presentations from Fellows based in Berlin, San Francisco, and beyond, including **Philip Van Keuren**, **Mary Gilliland**, **Eloisa Amezcua**, **Edward Mycue**, **Arthur Gottschalk**, **Sonia Barrett**, **Jenny Perlin**, **Katya Stanislavskaya**, **Juan Andrés García Román**, **Judith Shatin**, **Matt Schreibeis**, **Jon Lackman**, **Larry O’Dwyer**, **Barbara Trachtenberg**, **Carl Bettendorf**, **Anne Gilman**, and **Vesna Pavlović**.



CHRISTIAN HOLLAND



# GET SOCIAL



KRISTEN JOY EMACK

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Our videos offer a unique look at the biggest developments from MacDowell.

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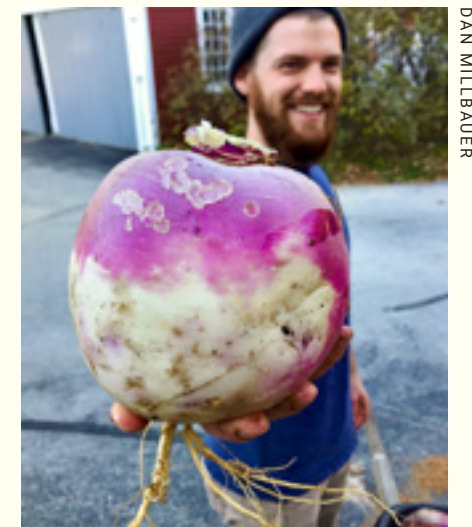


PAMELA COUNCIL

▶ Top: Filmmaker Young Joo Lee (21) worked on the idea of fusing into the environment to reverse the process of anthropomorphizing. This is *Fusion I* as the artist rendered it in the MacDowell forest. The snap was taken by Fellow Kristen Emack. Bottom: Visual artist Pamela Council's (19) *A Fountain for Survivors* was the first fountain in Times Square, and also Pamela's first public commission.



ROBIN CHEROF



DAN MILLBAUER

▶ Clockwise from left: Instagram in 2021 featured Maintenance Foreman John Sieswerda talking about sustainability, a massive turnip cultivated by Head Gardener Dan Thayer, and an astonishing find made by Librarian Colette Lucas.



JONATHAN GOURLAY



# DONORS

✓ Below: The result of a 30-year art practice wherein Whiting Tennis (96, 03, 15) painted and sent postcards to a friend. It became a ritual to do this from various residencies and the result was premiered at the Alberta Abbey in Portland, OR, in a group show titled "Sidle Up," curated by Laura Jean Foster.





Aaron Copland Contributors

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MACDOWELL FELLOW

Lisa Thompson

I totally immersed myself in my project while at MacDowell—once I got over the shock of being in the same studio that once housed Baldwin! I spent my time conducting research, writing, thinking, dreaming, and reading. This fellowship gave me time and space to read more broadly as well as revisit old texts with new eyes. Living in nature gave me such peace and a much-needed opportunity to relax. This was a gift that allowed me to understand the connection between body, mind, and spirit in new ways. I’m now close to completing a first draft of my new performance piece, *The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body*. Beyond the time and the resources provided by the

MacDowell residency, being a Fellow also gave me more confidence and clarity about my contribution as a writer. I was bold enough while there to pitch one of my plays for publication and representation. I don’t think I would have been so bold if I wasn’t “dropping them a quick note from my MacDowell residency.” I’ll never forget getting an acceptance email while at the James Baldwin library! I must add that as a single parent I’m thankful that the staff at MacDowell focused on taking care of my needs so that I could focus solely on my creative work. The entire staff went beyond the call of duty at every turn to support me and my cohort. I also want to note that I was delighted to discover that a baby was part of our cohort! For the first time, a child

accompanied her mother and father during a MacDowell residency. She was one of my favorite members of our cohort! I’m particularly sensitive to the fact that many parents—particularly mothers—are unable to take advantage of residencies and put at a huge disadvantage professionally. I hope that arts institutions become more imaginative and figure out how to provide more opportunities for those with young children. When my child was young, I was denied the chance. Although I never had the opportunity, I hope things change for the next generation of women artists, not only for the sake of equity and inclusion, but because we need the art that they produce. I’m sure it will make the world a much better place to live for us all.



Jeffrey Egan  
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**William Goldstein** in honor of **Nell Painter**  
**Tracey Goodman**  
Kerry Greene  
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**Carol Irving**  
**Naomi Jackson**  
**Julia Jacqueline**  
**Melanie Jennings**  
**Frederic Todd Johnson**



“ My time at MacDowell was game-changing. It was (and is) the perfect marriage of protected individual time and stimulating–intellectually and creatively–social time. The mix is generative in all ways.” —DEAN RADER, POET



Kristen Emack

I cried when I got to MacDowell. I missed my daughter, our dog, and my routines. I was unaccustomed and uncomfortable having so much time to think, and to not be sidelined by the responsibilities of full-time work, parenting, and the chores of domesticity. It took a day or two to allow myself the pleasures of quiet and time to myself, and to understand that I had space to follow a creative impulse without interruption. The beautiful birch trees, song birds, and the nightly visits of delicate katydids to the studio window screens began to work their magic, and I leaned into the experience. I had carried up a big box of old family photos with me, assuming I would finally have the time to look through them during my residency. I inherited the photos a year prior, when my mother went into a full-time care facility after her dementia progressed significantly. The photos were of my mother, her mother, and other members of the Swedish and Finnish sides of my family tree. As I looked through them it occurred to me that the woods right outside of my studio looked the way I imagined the Northern European landscape would look. I decided to take some of my favorite photos outside and photograph them alongside the mushrooms, flowers, white bark, moss, and ferns. I thought afterwards that I should caption them, and when I sat down to do so, I ended up writing for seven hours straight, and the captions turned into a story. I could not understand the ease with which the story



flowed, and kept trying to ignore an uncanny feeling that something or someone was writing through me. Considering I came to MacDowell to work on my photography, and that I am not a writer, I found the whole experience lovely and ... strange. On the day I took the final image, I reached down to pick up a photograph of my grandparents where I placed it in the leaves, and I spied something blue poking out of the dirt. I unearthed an old blue-colored bottle, nearly fully hidden beside a fallen tree, and took it inside to wash it. I knew it wasn't modern so I asked an expert to identify it. It turns out it was 1950's milk glass. It was exciting to find hidden treasure in the woods, but especially fascinating because the story I wrote, inspired by the family photographs, takes place in the 1950s and specifically mentions my mother's collection of vintage glassware and her pieces of milk glass. I later learned, after sharing my experience with the librarians, that I am the only Fellow so far to report having found buried treasure. Although I wanted to take the milk glass home with me, I decided

to leave the mysterious blue bottle, with all its potential magic, on the mantle of the Nef Studio fireplace. Rather than keep and possess it, I wanted to leave it for all the future fellows lucky enough to stay and create there. In addition to writing, I worked hard to re-learn how to present my work. Being surrounded by such accomplished and supportive artists of multiple disciplines pushed me to talk about my "Cousins Series" in a more authentic and truthful way. I presented on my last night and feel I reached my goal. This led to re-working my artist statements online and in grant proposals. It seems like a small step, but it was an important one. In fact, I worked diligently on a particular application every day in the library as I looked out the window at deer, bunnies, and wildflowers. I am happy to share that my efforts paid off, as I was named a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow this spring. I know that came to fruition, in part, because of the creative and respectful and life-changing environment of MacDowell.

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A work in progress by painter Erick Hernandez (21) in Heinz Studio with his work table and paints in the foreground.





“ In being around so many artists, I learned to see myself and my work in a new way.”  
—ANNA SUSSMAN, NONFICTION WRITER



Katie Merz (6x 95-11) *Trajan's Column 2021* is a 120-foot tall smokestack on the campus of Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA.

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Orah Moore in memory of **Katherine Min**  
**Michele Morano** in memory of **Katherine Min**  
**Michael Morse** in memory of **Katherine Min**  
Patricia Neff in memory of my husband, Tom Neff  
Soo Oh in memory of **Katherine Min**  
Tricia Paik in memory of **Katherine Min** and in honor of the Min Family  
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MacDowell Fellows are listed in **bold type**.



“ Upon arriving I was greeted by a welcoming staff and cohort of artists that at once put me at ease personally and creatively. I fell into a routine that was both productive and restorative. Through the structure of the residency and the variety of talented artists present at any given time, MacDowell provided a space that allowed me to take the pressure off of myself, and work, have fun, and learn.”

— JARED JACKSON, FICTION WRITER





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# FACILITIES



JONATHAN GOURLAY, DAN MILLBAUER, DAVID MACY



After decades of resetting and repointing to take care of freeze-thaw damage, the flagstone steps leading into the main hall showed a dire need for a total overhaul. Enter stonemasons Mark Bartrum and Rick Wasserloos of Peterborough's Taylor Land Services who came to build entryways that might just be the building's last. To make sure the new granite treads – each block weighing roughly 600 lbs. – would sit on a solid footing, the two excavated and found older steps beneath those they had just demolished. The unearthed stones were probably laid c. 1913, the year Mrs. MacDowell initiated the conversion of what had been a 1814 barn into what would become the center of community for artists-in-residence. End-capping the new steps, Bartrum and Wasserloos re-used stones from the old steps set together with material reclaimed from old local walls. Drawing upon decades of mastery, they painstakingly selected, sculpted, and placed each rock, their extraordinary craftsmanship giving both east and west entries to the historic building long-lasting, safer, and architecturally appropriate forms.



Just before the first snowfall in fall of 2021, MacDowell's maintenance crew, under the direction of Foreman John Sieswerda, installed new sets of bollard lights in high-traffic areas of the campus. The project team included Maintenance Foreman Jamie Sargent and Head Gardener Dan Thayer and resulted in lighted paths to and from the main hall (where artists-in-residence find both our administrative offices and dining room) to the James Baldwin Library (where artists often spend late nights working), and along the paths to the Eaves and Pan's Cottage dormitories. The bollards are short enough not to obstruct our forested grounds, yet tall enough to remain above even the deepest New Hampshire snows, making for a more welcoming environment for everyone.

JONATHAN GOURLAY





# TREASURER'S REPORT

In the words of our esteemed investments committee chair, Peter Read, “MacDowell is unique!” That is because there are very few nonprofits that balance their budgets with zero earned income. MacDowell does not charge tuition, does not market services or sell goods, does not have a museum or exhibition that can sell tickets, and receives very little governmental support. Its two sources of revenue are giving – where most gifts are year to year – and the draw from an investment portfolio built up over decades thanks to generous gifts from far-sighted donors.

Having reactivated the core program at half-capacity late in 2020, we entered 2021 with a fair degree of uncertainty regarding the effect of the pandemic. We ended 2021 certainly on a more hopeful note as regards COVID’s broader health impacts, but also with continued doubt around the prospects for the economy. Inflation had started to become a factor even at the end of 2021 at about the time the equity markets rose to levels that turned out to be short-lived highs. Three quarters of the way through 2022, we have had a rocky time, with the Fed embarking on a determined series of interest rate increases that began in March. All in all, our budget draw, which had been forecast at 9.0 percent when approved, turned

out to be 7.0 percent in 2021 (and 6.3 percent if using our trailing 12-quarter average as measured at the end of the year).

I think we will look back to see that, despite the challenges, 2021 turned out to be a good year for MacDowell from a financial point of view, largely due to the performance of our equity-heavy portfolio. Over the 12 months of 2021, total investments grew \$4.0 million to \$45.1 million. Total support and revenue was \$2.6 million, down from 2020’s \$3.1 million (though that included roughly \$400,000 from the PPP loan program). Total 2021 expenses came in at \$5.1 million, up slightly from 2020, but on a par with 2019 and 2018. As mentioned in the 2020 Treasurer’s Report, one might have expected more variation in expenses from 2020 to 2021, but indeed we have large ongoing costs bound up with supporting our employees, continuing fundraising efforts, maintaining the physical plant to host a full slate of artists once again, and supporting new initiatives and the overall program. In 2021 we provided Fellowships for 159 artists who were in residence for a total of 3,732 days – an uptick over 2020 of roughly 50 percent. By May, widely available vaccinations allowed for the return of communal meals and after-dinner presentations in Baldwin Library. These simple changes reactivated

Number of artists-in-residence	159	CY21 EXPENSES		% of total expenses
Total number of artists days	3,732	Program	3,025,239	59%
		Administration	1,225,212	24%
Investments at Fair Value	45,105,660	Development	854,642	17%
Total Assets	57,326,631	Total expenses	5,105,093	100%
Total Liabilities	2,590,183			
Total Net Assets	54,736,448	CY21 SUPPORT and REVENUE		
Total Support & Revenue	2,576,473	Contributions	2,445,204	48%
Total Expenses	5,105,093	Application Fees, Royalties and Other	131,269	3%
Difference Before Investment Return	(2,528,620)	Total support and revenue	2,576,473	50%
Net Investment Return	7,035,984	Excess (Deficiency)	(2,528,620)	(50%)
Change in Total Net Assets	4,507,364	Net Investment Return	7,035,984	
		Change in Total Net Assets	4,507,364	

the program’s hallmarks: immersion in a creative community where ideas were again exchanged and new friends made.

After significant internal debate, the board approved a 2022 budget in January with a projected transfer from investment earnings of 7.8 percent (it now looks like we will be under this number, though still higher than the 10-year average). As I write, while this number is

certainly attainable, it will require a fundraising sprint at the end of the year. Looking ahead to 2023 requires that we wrestle with inflation’s impact on operating costs coupled with challenges to the portfolio’s performance and the volatile economy’s potential effects on charitable giving.

Peter J. Wirth,  
Treasurer



# TEAM

Delivering a daily lunch basket to Fellows so they do not have to disturb their focus in the middle of the day is a tradition that goes back to Marian MacDowell bringing a mid-day meal to Edward in the log cabin. She carried on with the tradition, using a horse and carriage for decades. The baskets are delivered to this day, but now using a horseless carriage.

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For more information, go to [www.macdowell.org](http://www.macdowell.org).

MacDowell is a member of the Alliance of Artists Communities, a nationwide consortium and professional organization for the field; and ResArtis, a worldwide network of artist residency programs.





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works of the imagination.**

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Each year, a significant portion of our operations is funded by planned giving, including cash bequests, stocks, real estate, the rights to and royalties from works of art, and useful items such as books, equipment, and furnishings. The Marian MacDowell Society is a group of artists, patrons, and board members who have chosen to remember MacDowell in their wills or other estate plans. The legacies created by these gifts help guarantee that the residency program can offer the same transformative experience to future generations of artists.

Please consider expressing your commitment to MacDowell through an annual contribution, endowed gift, or planned gift. We would be pleased to assist you and your legal or tax advisors. To discuss ways in which your gift can help artists and to learn about possible significant tax savings in planned giving, please call Director of Development Stacey Bosworth at 212-535-9690.

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