



Vol. 52, No. 1, SUMMER-FALL 2023

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We Are Not the Same, So Let's Talk



"If we are the same, we cannot talk, because there is nothing to say. But if you and I are different, there's a lot to exchange."

– Architect and designer Gaetano Pesce

In my first "Letter from the Director" after just a few months on the job, I mused about the challenge of remaining true to our legacy of caring for artists in a turbulent world. I wrote about MacDowell's need to remain focused on the beauty and bounty of the future in order to continue to fulfill its mission to best support artists. Yet lately it's become clear to me that a key to rising to that challenge is to avoid becoming indifferent to the world's struggles on the way to that future. I believe this to be more important now than ever before as we seem to be at a crossroads.

The news – pick a subject – is so rife with examples of pain, cynicism, and the darkness of humanity that getting beyond this intersection might appear daunting, especially to our youth. Yet during periods of great turmoil it's important to note that humans have, time and again, used art to try to interpret

and understand and process the difficult times they have lived through – and the times about to be faced. We can use art to knit communities back together from vastly different walks of life. It is what MacDowell has always done.

We've made much of Edward MacDowell's plan to combine different artistic disciplines under one roof at Columbia University's new division of fine arts at the end of the 19th century, a philosophy that he transferred to Peterborough and the residency program that bears his name, but it seems especially instructive today. Thankfully for those of us who are interested in the arts – makers and lovers of the work alike – that celebration of differences in disciplines has expanded to include all nationalities, ethnicities, philosophies, genders, and abilities, resulting in a vast realm of creative thought and practice that is abundantly rich, beautiful, and inspiring. It is inspiring to those who watch a film, read a book, visit a museum, attend a performance, or walk through designed and built spaces great and small. It is inspiring to the artists who make that work when they speak with other artists who offer differing perspectives.

Artists know how valuable the exchange of ideas affirmed in the Gaetano Pesce

quote above can be. They have always known it, and have always done it. They have shown us new ways of considering our world, demonstrated new paths to finding joy in both the mundane and the complicated, and presented new perspectives about how we think and feel about the world. We ought to continue to look to them for the light in the darkness, and to recognize the reflections of our own humanity. If we look to our artists for examples of experimentation, inquiry, and finding beauty in their work, we'll discover new ways of pushing through that clogged intersection of destructive discord to find, if not harmony, then at least a productive way forward.

Never accept hate and fear as normal. Keep finding the beauty in people, in new ideas, in the art you seek out. Share that inspiring work of art as far and wide as you can. While in many ways we are the same, it is a fact that we are not the same, and that is brilliant. Let's just make sure we talk.

In friendship,

Chiwoniso Kaitano
Executive Director



On the Cover

This year, we celebrate what would be MacDowell Fellow **James Baldwin's** 100th birthday. We're featuring *Pink Baldwin* (acrylic on canvas; 40 in. X 30 in.) on our cover, a 2013 painting by Fellow **Harold Smith** (22). Baldwin, who wrote novels, essays, plays, and poems, was a sought-after social critic who won accolades for insights on race, spirituality, and humanity. The author was in residence in 1954, 1958, and 1960, and MacDowell's library was named for him in 2018. (Christian Holland photo)

NEWS

Christine Fisher appointed President of MacDowell Board

MacDowell elected Christine Fisher in late spring to become its next president of the Board of Directors. Fisher, who first joined the board in 2015, replaces outgoing President Andrew M. Senchak, who has held the post since 2017. Fisher won unanimous support at the board's meeting in April. The election means three of four executive leadership roles at MacDowell are currently held by women.

Fisher joins a leadership team of Chiwoniso Kaitano, who was named executive director in February; David Macy, who has served as resident director since 1994, and MacDowell Fellow **Nell Painter**, who has chaired the MacDowell board since 2020.

"Christine Fisher has long been a leader on the MacDowell board where she



has always demonstrated tremendous thoroughness and generosity in her stewardship," says Painter. "Her warmth, intelligence and devotion to artistic freedom make her a unique gift to this important institution."

When she first encountered MacDowell, Fisher says she was impressed by its hands-off approach to offering artists time and space to create with no strings attached. "MacDowell supports artists by believing in their vision and giving them a supportive and inspirational environment in which to realize it. Marian MacDowell devoted her entire life to this simple but transformative idea. My colleagues on MacDowell's board and I truly feel honored to be able to follow in Marian's footsteps to sustain and advance that vision."

[Read more about the appointment here.](#)

2023 Pulitzer Prize for Hernan Diaz's MacDowell Work

Congratulations to author and MacDowell Fellow **Hernan Diaz** (19) for winning the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for **Trust**, and to Fellows **Vauhini Vara** (13) and **Aleshea Harris** (16, 19) who were named finalists!



"At once an immersive story and a brilliant literary puzzle," the Pulitzer Prizes board said in praising Hernan's "riveting" second novel. "**Trust** engages the reader in a quest for the truth while confronting the deceptions that often live at the heart of personal relationships, the reality-warping force of capital, and the ease with which power can manipulate facts." A MacDowell-supported work, Hernan reached the novel's halfway point during his fall 2019 MacDowell residency. #MadeAtMacDowell

Vauhini was a finalist in fiction for *The Immortal Kind Rao*, the debut novel for which she was awarded her MacDowell Fellowship, and Aleshea was a finalist in drama for her play *On Sugarland*.

Follow the latest developments, news, and artist updates on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @MacDowell1907



Poet Jennifer Clement Honored on World Press Freedom Day

Poet **Jennifer Clement** (07), president emerita of PEN International and the only woman to hold the office of president (2015-2021) since the organization was founded in 1921, received the 2023 Freedom of Expression Honorary Title on World Press Day from the Brussels University Alliance VUB and ULB. The title was granted in partnership with the European Commission, the European Endowment for Democracy, and UNESCO. The award, presented on May 3, was given for both Clement's own literature and her defense of freedom of expression. The Honorary Title for Freedom of Expression is awarded to a journalist, writer, artist, cultural thinker, or any other person, association or institution that has made a vital contribution to protect and promote freedom of thinking and expression in an ever-changing, democratic society.

Four Fellows Win the Rome Prize

The 2023-24 Rome Prize winners include four Fellows (clockwise from left) among the 36 winners of the prestigious award.

Kate Soper (13, 18) won the Frederic A. Juilliard/Walter Damrosch Rome Prize for Musical Composition for *Orchestra Orpheus Opus Onus*. **Erica Hunt** (23) won the Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize for *The Mood Librarian Tells Stories*. **Elif Batuman** (18) won the John Guare Writers Fund Rome Prize in Literature for *Camino Real/The Selin Novels*. **Jeanine Oleson** (16, 22) won the Nancy B. Negley Rome Prize for Visual Arts for *Untitled, Work-in-progress*.



154 Artists Awarded Fellowships from Near Record Applicant Pool

An international group of 154 talented artists working in multiple disciplines have been awarded Fall 2023/Winter 2024 Fellowships at MacDowell, the nation's preeminent artist residency program. The renowned Fellowships are distributed by seven discipline-specific admissions panels who choose artists in a blind process based solely on the content of their proposed projects and work samples. This latest group of individuals was chosen from MacDowell's second largest applicant pool in its history for an admissions rate of 7.6 percent. For this round of Fellowships, 2,034 applications were reviewed by a panel of renowned professionals in each discipline. [Read more here.](#)



JOANNA ELDRIDGE MORRISSEY/3; COURTESY OF SUGAR HILL MUSEUM; SARA BILL PHOTOGRAPHY; KAREN CUBIDES AGENCY; ANNA POWELL DENTON



Netflix series "Transatlantic" adapted from Julia Orringer's *The Flight Portfolio*

Netflix Series "Transatlantic" Adapts Orringer's *The Flight Portfolio*

Author **Julie Orringer's** (4x 05-23) historical novel *The Flight Portfolio* has been turned into a seven-episode Netflix series called "Transatlantic." It tells the compelling real-life story – with some fictional characters added – of American journalist Varian Fry who is bent on saving as many artists and writers, most of them Jews, as he can from occupied France at the beginning of World War II. Fry, played by Cory Michael Smith, "works closely with Mary Jayne Gold (Gillian Jacobs), an American heiress who brings her money, energy and connections to the mission, as well as with Albert O. Hirschman (Lucas Englander), a German Jewish intellectual who would become a distinguished American economist." The series is a must-see about a little-studied slice of history. *The Flight Portfolio* was adapted for television by **Anna Winger** (97) (creator of 2020's *Unorthodox*). "Transatlantic" premiered in April 2023 and has been one of the streaming site's most popular shows. Read the [New York Times Review](#).

Thomas J. Campanella (22) published an article in the *Times Union* with Richard S. Booth called "[Leaving Lighter Footprints](#)" about how efforts to protect the Adirondacks have offered lessons for addressing climate change.

Michael Scott Moore (19) sailed with a German rescue ship, the *Humanity 1*, to write about migration across the central Mediterranean. Two pieces were recently published on the experience,

[one in English](#) and the other in German. The German version ran in *Die Zeit* in late June with his original title, "Rafts of the Medusa," and the English version ran in *Foreign Policy* under a different title, "[The Libyan Coast Guard is Not What it Seems](#)."

Fellow Wins Big with the Windham-Campbell Prize



Playwright **Jasmine Lee-Jones** (22) won a \$175,000 unrestricted Windham-Campbell prize for her playwrighting this spring. These global English-language awards are aimed at calling attention to literary achievement and provide writers with the opportunity to focus on their work independent of financial concerns. Lee-Jones was singled out for her "iconoclastic plays [that] reinvigorate the vernacular of contemporary theater for a new generation," according to the judges. Writers are nominated by a new group of judges each year for a body of work or outstanding promise. In Lee-Jones's case, judges were impressed with the playwright's debut, *seven methods of*

killing kylie jenner, a "provocative, wildly funny story about a self-proclaimed Twitter activist, Cleo, and her best friend, Kara," and her next effort, 2021's *Curious*. Both plays deal with body image, colorism, cultural appropriation, and queerness in contemporary culture.

2023 Tony Winners and Nominations for Six Fellows

With its five Tony Awards, *Kimberly Akimbo*, "a small-scale, big-hearted show" created by **Jeanine Tesori** (20) and playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, was the most awarded work of 2023. Winning for Best Musical, it also earned Tonys for Best Original Score, which was written by Jeanine and David, as well as for Book of a Musical, Lead Actress, and Featured Actress!

In accepting this year's Tony for Best Revival, **Suzan-Lori Parks** (89, 91, 95) praised actors Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Corey Hawkins for "living large in a world that often does not want the likes of us living at all" and added, "Theater is the great cure."

In addition to the winners, four Fellows earned nominations: Best Original Score for *KPOP* with music and lyrics by Helen Park and **Max Vernon** (18, 22) as well as for *Almost Famous* with music by **Tom Kitt** (17), and lyrics by Cameron Crowe and Kitt; Best Scenic Design of a Musical for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* with design by **Mimi Lien** (12); and Best Direction of a Musical for *Into the Woods*, directed by **Lear deBessonet** (12).

Fellow Picks up His Second Obie Award

Congratulations are due to **Jared Mezzocchi** (17, 20) for winning his second Obie for the digital+virtual+hybrid production of *Russian Troll Farm*. The work is a digital production inspired by the Russian trolling campaign on social media that was said to have boosted Donald Trump's successful run for the White House in 2016.



Hansol Jung's *Wolf Play* Wins Five Lortels

Hansol Jung's (14, 19) (above) *Wolf Play* won 2023 Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Play, Outstanding Director (Dustin Wills), Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Scenic Design, and Outstanding Sound Design. In addition, **Ntozake Shange** (80) was honored with a star on the Playwrights' Sidewalk by the Off-Broadway League and Lucille Lortel Theatre.

More Theatre News and Awards

TWO FELLOWS RECEIVE DRAMA DESK AWARDS

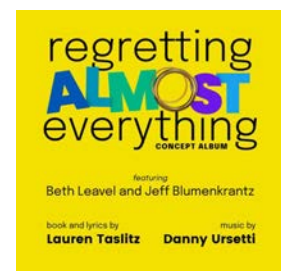
The 2023 Drama Desk Awards ceremony held this summer resulted in two MacDowell Fellows receiving the awards for which productions on Broadway, Off Broadway, and Off Off Broadway compete against each other in the same categories. They are voted on and bestowed by critics, journalists, editors, and publishers covering theater. Congratulations are due to **Suzan-Lori Parks** (3x 89-95) whose play *Plagues Year* won for Outstanding Music in a Play, and **Amy Herzog** (15) wins Outstanding Adaptation for *A Doll's House*.

A Jeff Award was presented to playwright **Tina Fakhrid-Deen** (20) for her play *Pulled Punches*, which she edited at MacDowell. *Pulled Punches* was the recipient of the Best New Work for the 2023 Jeff Awards for Non-Equity Theater.

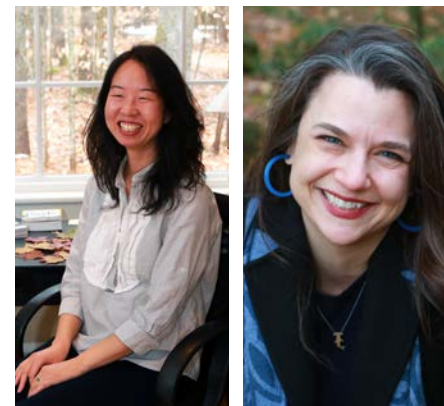
Christina Anderson (18) won a Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association Award (ATCA; \$25k) for the play *the ripple, the wave that carried me home*. ATCA also presented **Suzan-Lori Parks** (3x 89-95) with a citation for her work.

In June, **Ekaterina Wagner** (23) presented a public reading of her play *How (Not) to Offend a Partisan* at the Portland Playhouse. This short satirical play, partly based on the trial of Alexey Navalny in 2021, is a collective portrait of contemporary Russian society embroiled in a vicious cycle of lawlessness and absurdity.

Lauren Taslitz (20) released *Regretting Almost Everything*, a two-person musical comedy about a middle-aged woman



who loves her husband and kids, but wants more out of her later years.



Two MacDowell-supported poetry collections win 2023 Lambda Literary Awards

As *She Appears*, by **Shelley Wong** (17, at left above), won the 'Lammy' in the Lesbian Poetry category, and *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes*, by **Nicky Beer** (17, above right, won for Bisexual Poetry.

Two Fellows Named 2023 Herb Alpert Award Winners

Congratulations to filmmaker **Christopher Harris** (18) and composer **Erin Gee** (13) who are among 11 winners of this year's Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, which are presented to "risk-taking, mid-career artists – experimenters – who are challenging and transforming art, their respective disciplines, and society." Fifteen highly regarded leaders in the arts made up the panels reviewing the candidates and selecting two award recipients in each of five disciplines: dance, film/video, music, theatre, and visual arts.

Sarah Holland-Batt Wins Stella Prize

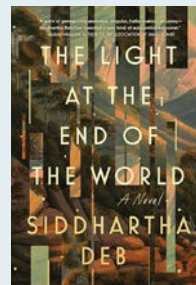
Congratulations to poet **Sarah Holland-Batt** (13, 15) who collected this year's Stella Prize, a \$60,000 AUD (\$40,000 USD) prize considered Australia's pre-eminent award for women and non-binary writers. Holland-Batt won

for her poetry collection *The Jaguar*, her third. The collection focuses on her father's Parkinson's diagnosis and his eventual death from the disease.

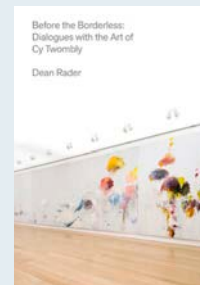
Eight Fellows Win AAAL Literature and Music Awards

The American Academy of Arts and Letters presented 18 writers with its 2023 literature awards this spring. Among them, five are MacDowell Fellows. The prizes honor both established and emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. The winners included **Jennifer Croft** (16, 21), **Mona Mansour** (18), **Hernan Diaz** (19), **Lauren Groff** (12, 16), and **Jacqueline Woodson** (4x 90-09). The Academy's 300 members propose candidates, and a rotating committee of writers selects winners. This year's committee members were Amy Hempel (chair), John Guare, Elizabeth Kolbert, **Sigrud Nunez** (4x 89-19), **Mona Simpson** (4x 84-96), Rosanna Warren, and Joy Williams.

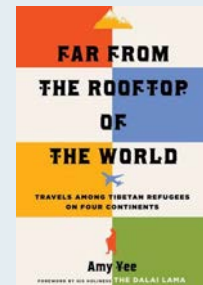
New Releases Made at MacDowell



Siddhartha Deb (13)



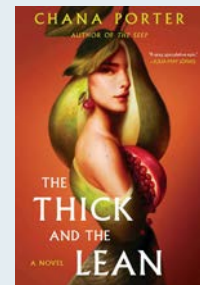
Dean Rader (20)



Amy Yee (19)



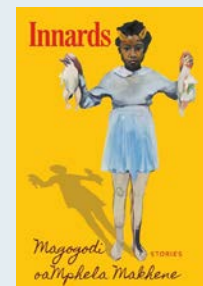
Ricardo Nuila (18, 19)



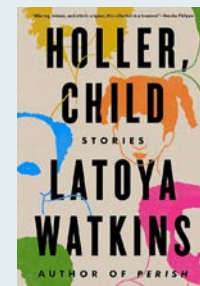
Chana Porter (17, 21)



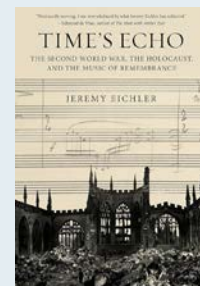
Dionne Ford (17, 19)



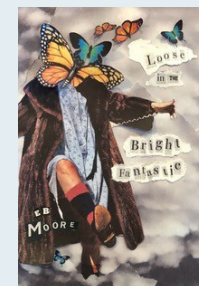
Magogodi oaMphela Makhene (18)



LaToya Watkins (3x 16-21)



Jeremy Eichler (18)



E.B. Moore (16)

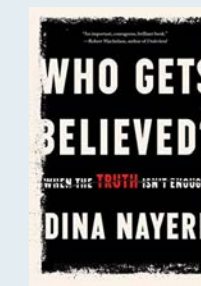
Lithub's Most Anticipated Books for 2023



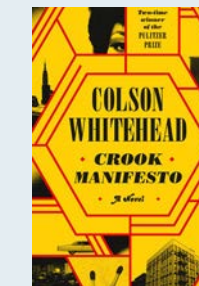
Parini Shroff (16)



Greg Marshall (18)



Dina Nayeri (14)



Colson Whitehead (99, 11)



Jeff Sharlet (6x 05-21),



Lauren Groff (12, 16)



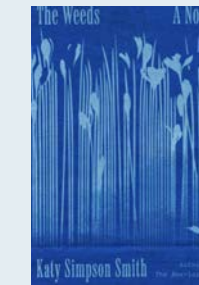
Mona Simpson (4x 84-96)



Victor LaValle (08)



Alex Mar (12, 17)



Katy Simpson Smith (19) cont.



National Magazine Award for Tolentino

Essayist and journalist **Jia Tolentino** (18), a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, won a National Magazine Award this past spring for her writing about the repeal of Roe v. Wade. The prize, conferred by the American Society of Magazine Editors, honored Tolentino in the Columns and Essays category, recognizing three pieces published during the tumultuous months before and after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. "A Post-Roe Threat," "The Post-Roe Era," and "Is Abortion Sacred?"



Venice Biennale's Silver Lion Awarded to Olalekan Jeyifous

Fellow **Olalekan Jeyifous** (16, 23) won the prestigious Silver Lion for a promising young participant in The Laboratory of the Future (above) at the 18th Venice Biennale for architecture. Jeyifous won for a multimedia installation "that explores a worldbuilding practice that expands public perspectives and imaginations, offering visions of a decolonized and decarbonized future" via a hypothetical All-Africa Protoport (AAP) lounge.

Architect Richard Hayes Presents to Henry James Society

Architect **Richard Hayes** (5x 01-16) presented a paper at the 9th International Henry James Conference in Kyoto, Japan in a seminar section on "communicating in style." The presentation was called *(Re)thinking Food and Eating in James*.

Elgin Cleckley Discussed his MacDowell Project at the UK's National Maritime Museum

Architect **Elgin Cleckley** (22) spoke at The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, UK in April discussing "**Brookes (Revisited)**," an upcoming exhibition he worked on at MacDowell making use of models, drawings, and interactives. "Brookes (Revisited)" is a humanization of the iconic drawing "Stowage of the British Slave Ship Brookes under the Regulated Slave Trade Act of 1788" that was presented as an example of the inhumane treatment of slaves in the Atlantic slave trade when attempts to abolish the practice first emerged in 1780s in Great Britain. Cleckley outlined his journey to developing the installation/exhibition and detailed how the work melds art, architecture, history, and storytelling, incorporating three decades of research and compiled data. The work will exhibit in national and global locations beginning in 2024.

Other Literary Honors

Kathy Z. Price (23) was named the Rona Jaffe Non-fiction Scholar at Bread Loaf

Hilal Isler (19) received a McKnight Fellowship for her in-progress novel. A \$25k award for which Fellow **Alexander Chee** (05, 07) was judge.

Novelist **Roxana Robinson** (99, 10) was honored by the Authors Guild with the Preston Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community.



Ukrainian Diary Performed in Boston

Jazz pianist and composer **Vadim Nesselovsky** (12, 15) performed his *Odessa Suite* as well as a preview of his current work-in-progress *Ukrainian Diary* for piano and string trio in Boston at Congregation Kehilath Israel. He also appeared in Bologna, Italy, at the Ustica Memorial Museum (pictured above).

Musical Premieres for Fellows

Composer **Art Gottschalk** (18) premiered his chamber oratorio, *Loser: The Wit and Wisdom of Donald J. Trump, 45th President of The United States of America*. The orchestra acts as a Greek chorus, commenting upon the words being sung. The soloist was the bass-baritone Timothy Jones. [You can watch the performance here.](#)

Librettist **Mark Campbell** (98, 99, 01) and composer **Paul Moravec** (8x 87-11) collaborated on *A Nation of Others*, which

premiered at Carnegie Hall with Kent Tritle conducting.

"Unruly Sun," composer **Matthew Ricketts**' (19, 22) and Campbell's theatrical song cycle inspired by Derek Jarman's *Modern Nature* premiered with the Orchestre classique de Montréal on World AIDS Day (December 1) before going to Brott Opera in Hamilton and the 21C Music Festival in Toronto in January.

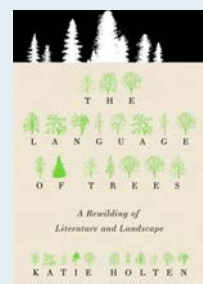
Album Releases and Performances

Composer **Laurence Sherr** (02) released *Fugitive Footsteps: Remembrance Music*. An album [preview video is available here.](#)

Christopher Willes (16) released a double-album and book, *Resonance Gathering* (pictured below), documenting a large-scale performance project on the music of avant-garde composer Pauline Oliveros (1932-2016). The project is also part of *Dissolving Your Earplugs*, a group exhibition at Musee d'Art Joliette.



Lithub's Most Anticipated Books continued



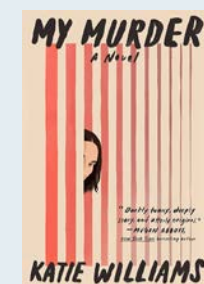
Katie Holten (19)



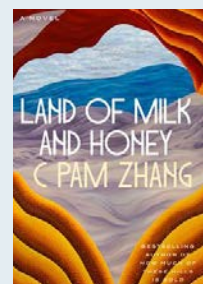
Hannah Pittard (12)



Isabella Hammad (17)



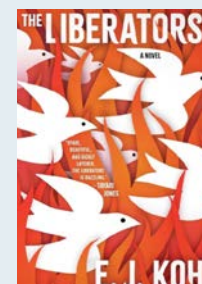
Katie Williams (05)



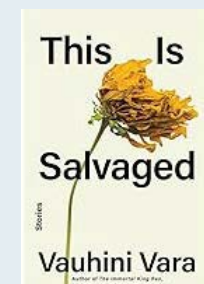
C Pam Zhang (23)



Safiya Sinclair (22)

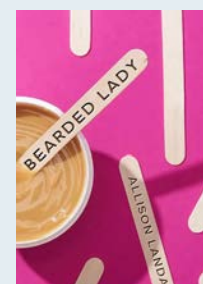


E.J. Koh (14)



Vauhini Vara (13)

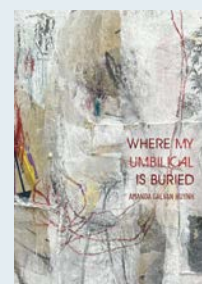
More Book Releases



Allison Landa (09)



Anya Liftig (13)



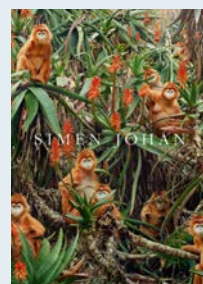
Amanda Galvan Huynh (18)



Edgar Kunz (18)



Tina Davidson (11)



Simen Johan (03,09)



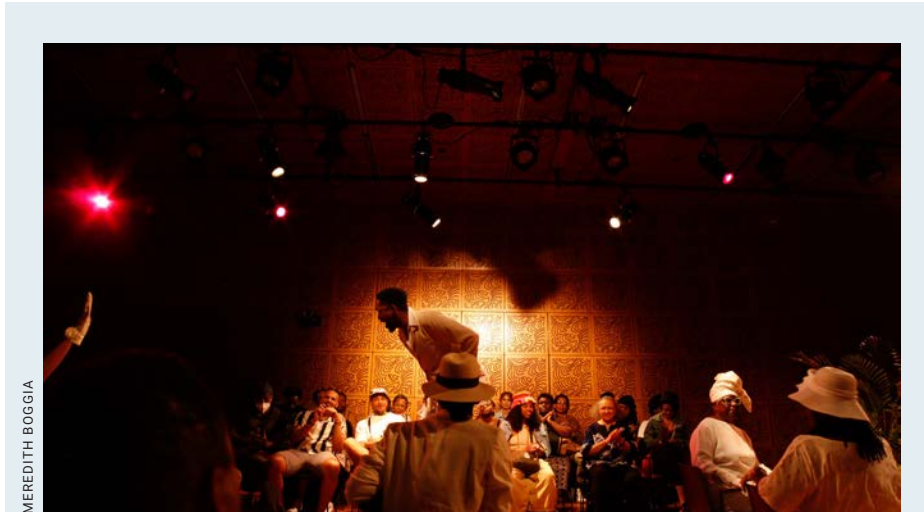
Brian Selznick (09, 18)

Composer **Lawrence Siegel** (3x 84-91) presented his contemporary opera lirica, *Si dice in Italia* (*They say, in Italy*), created from story circles he conducted in Bologna, Rome, and Rigomagno. You can watch it here. <https://youtu.be/mxcJEm-1WMSM>



Edwin McLean (79, 80) was a featured guest composer at the Limerick Early Music Festival in Ireland. Several of his works for harpsichord were performed, as well as *Incantations for Oboe and Harpsichord*, shown above being performed on the soprano saxophone.

Christopher Cerrone's (15, 17) *The Insects Became Magnetic* had its European premiere in Berlin by Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and conducted by Roderick Cox. His *The Year of Silence* had its world premiere by the Louisville Orchestra and music director Teddy Abrams. Claire Edwardes and Blair Harris of Ensemble Offspring performed the premiere of their newly commissioned arrangement of *The Pleasure at Being the Cause* and Tim Munro gave the Australian premiere of *New Addresses* with Ensemble Liaison. In Santa Barbara, Joshua Williams and Yu-Ting Peng performed the world premiere of *Groundswell*—a work for tuba and prepared piano, at the Music Academy of the West, with libretto by **Stephanie Fleischman** (93).



MacDowell Project Gets Processional Debut

Jubilee 11213: The Keeping by **Ebony Noelle Golden** (23), a multi-site-specific processional performance, premiered this past spring at Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn. *The Keeping* is a theatrical ceremony informed by practices of social good, self-determination, spirituality, sensuality, and sovereignty as critical components of the Black liberation continuum.

Interdisciplinary Shows

Cathy Weis (08) hosted several shows in her space Weisacres in New York. <https://cathyweis.org/>

Composer **Chase Elodia** (22) performed his interdisciplinary project "Walking in the City" (pictured below) at National Sawdust. Elodia invited eight intergenerational, multiracial, and transcultural writers from across Brooklyn to submit a text inspired by the experience of walking down a street in their neighborhood.



Cori Spencer's (19) work (pictured above) was in the group show "ANTI • VENOM" at The Arts Center at Governors Island in New York.

Interdisciplinary artist **Bundith Phunsombatlert** (11, 22) exhibited "Mapping Fragments" at the Brooklyn Public Library (Central).

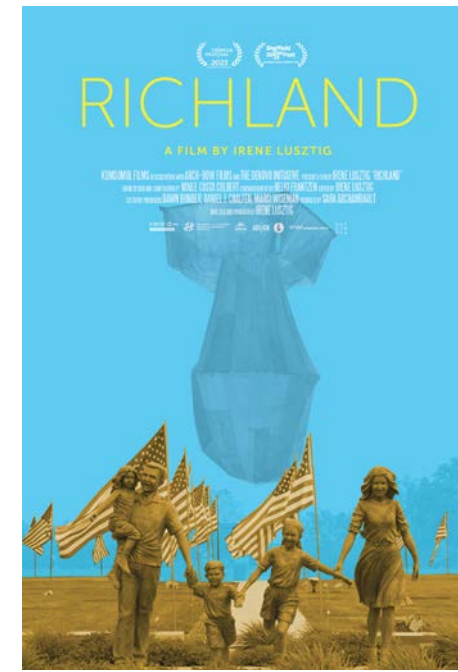
Sketches for Three Voices is a spoken performance of text by poet **Joanna Klink** (08, 17), painter **Francesca Fuchs** (17), and curator Annette Carlozzi. It premiered at testsite in Austin this past spring. The piece was created in response to a group of Fuchs' paintings and sculptures installed in the downstairs rooms of testsite, an art space and private home.

Fellows Works Abound in Season's Film Festivals

The spring and summer film festivals were busy for MacDowell filmmakers as premieres and screenings of films were lined up at Tribeca, New York, and Toronto Sheffield DocFest, Cannes Director's Fortnight, and True/False film festivals.

At Tribeca Film Festival 2023: The short film lineup included *Cam's Mementos*, a documentary directed by **Cam Archer** (10) (world premiere). The feature film lineup included *The Adults*, starring **Hannah Gross** (19) with Michael Sera and Sophia Lillis in a story about three siblings reunited (North American premiere). The International Narrative Competition screened *Boca Chica* (world premiere), directed by Gabriella A. Moses, written by **Marité Ugás** (16) and **Mariana Rondón** (16). The Documentary Competition screened *Richland*, directed by **Irene Lusztig** (06, 22), and produced by Lusztig and Sara Archambault (world premiere). The film is about a town in Washington formed to play a big part in the Manhattan Project. The film had its world premiere at Tribeca followed by international premiere at Sheffield DocFest in the UK. Lusztig worked on the final edit of the film during her recent residency, and was also awarded a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship to support her work on the film.

At New York Film Fest: Featured films included *Janet Planet* from **Annie Baker** (4x 09-19), *La Práctica* from **Martin Rejtman** (09), *Last Things* from **Deborah Stratman** (3x 10-21), *The Night Visitors* from **Michael Gitlin** (06, 16), and *Mango-steen + We Don't Talk Like We Used To* from Tulapop Saenjaroen and **Joshua Gen Solondz** (19). The festival's Currents Programming included Q&A sessions during which Fellows **Justin Jinsoo Kim** (22), **Steve Reinke** (19), **Maryam Tafakory** (23) and **Kevin Jerome Everson** (03, 12) took part.



At the 2023 Toronto Film Fest: Feature Films included *Flipside* from **Chris Wilcha** (03) (world premiere), Special Presentations included *Quiz Lady* by **Jessica Yu** (96, 98) (world premiere), and Short Cuts included *I Used to Live There* by **Ryan McKenna** (21). Fellow films included in the Wavelengths Programs included *Mast-del* by **Maryam Tafakory** (23), *We Don't Talk Like We Used To* by **Joshua Gen Solondz** (19), *Sundown Picture of Maple Leaf* by **Steve Reinke** (19), and *Light, Noise, Smoke, and Light, Noise, Smoke* by **Tomonari Nishikawa** (11).

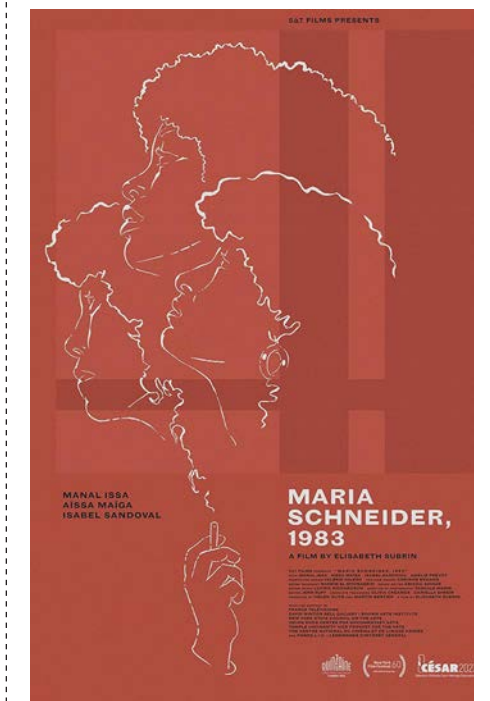
2023 Cannes Directors' Fortnight: The feature selection at Cannes Fortnight was *Agra* by **Kanu Behl** (18) while the Short Films category included *Mast-Del* by **Maryam Tafakory** (23).

Cannes César Award to Subrin's Maria Schneider, 1983

Elisabeth Subrin's (6x 02-17) *Maria Schneider, 1983*, co-starring **Isabel Sandoval** (20), had its world premiere at Cannes and received a César Award for

Best Documentary Short. **Albert Serra's** (19) feature *Pacifiction* also took home the awards for cinematography and best actor. Both films were supported by MacDowell residencies.

The Listening Takes, an immersive video installation version of *Maria Schneider, 1983*, opened at Brown University's gallery in February and included an event with Subrin and Sandoval. The installation presents three portraits of Schneider (1952–2011) within an immersive sound, video, and sculptural installation. Collaborating with the women who portray Schneider (Manal Issa, Aïssa Maïga, and Sandoval), *The Listening Takes* focuses on Schneider's refusal during a 1983 interview to discuss her controversial lead role opposite Marlon Brando in *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) and the non-consensual sex scene that she was subjected to on the set. As she articulates her perspective as a woman within the film industry, Schneider reveals a devastating prescience about the ways women are defined within and beyond cinema. Subrin's project untethers Schneider from *Tango* and allows the nuances of her interview to be reimagined within three extraordinary performances.





Visual artist **Sara Eliassen** (22) exhibited “**Images [and Talking Back to Them];**” a film installation (pictured above) at Kunstneres Hus Cinema in Oslo.

More Releases, Premieres, and Festival Showings

Documentary filmmaker **Leslie Tai’s** (16, 19) **How to Have an American Baby**, a kaleidoscopic voyage into the global shadow economy of Chinese birth tourism in Los Angeles and China, premiered at True/False Film Festival and had its national broadcast on PBS’ POV on Dec. 11, 2023 and it will be streaming online for 90 days thereafter.

Lauren Cohen’s (23) film **The Fisherman** had its premiere screening at MoMA during a private event.

Skip Blumberg’s (87) 1971 films *Mayday* and *The Whole World is Watching* had a double feature at DCTV’s Firehouse Documentary Cinema.

Christian Bruno’s (07) award-winning film *Visions Not Previously Seen* (co-directed with Natalija Vekic and Kurt Keppeler) about groundbreaking designer Barbara Stauffacher Solomon was included as part of an exhibit of the designer’s latest work at Marin MOCA.

Dennis Tupicoff (2016) released his new animated film ***The Only Photograph of Emily Dickinson, American Poet***.

Filmmaker **David Licata** (10, 17) released the documentary ***A Life’s Work***, which is now streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Kanopy, and others. The film asks the question: What’s it like to dedicate your life to work that won’t be completed in your lifetime?



The Restless Hungarian, a film by **Tom Weidlinger** (14) is now available for streaming on Amazon Prime. The documentary is a filmmaker’s journey in search of his famous yet mysterious father, across three continents and four generations, from Kristallnacht to the Atomic Age, from modernism to madness. It’s an epic family story of war, migration and intergenerational healing.

Hasselblad Foundation Prize Awarded to Carrie Mae Weems

Photographer **Carrie Mae Weems** (14) has won the Hasselblad Foundation’s 2023 Hasselblad Award! In October, an exhibition of her work opened at the Hasselblad Center in Gothenburg, Sweden, and a new text about her practice will be released.

Solo Exhibits and Appearances

“Technosignatures” was **Amy Ellingson’s** (10) third solo exhibition with Robischon Gallery in Denver. She showed a collection of paintings, robotic drawings, tapestries, and porcelain sculptures. <https://www.amyellingson.com/techno-signatures-robischon-gallery>

Painter **Harmony Hammond** (3x 79-17) had her sixth exhibition, “Accumulations,” with Alexander Gray Associates in New York.

Visual artist **Sonia E Barrett** (14) exhibited a site-specific installation, *Here Tell, Quantum Black*, at the International Curators Forum in London, addressing the material histories of flint, the black sedimentary rock used in Britain to construct tools, structures, and weaponry.

Anthony Hawley’s (12, 23) “**Geograpologies**” showed at New York’s LUBOV gallery.

Frauke Schlitz’s (17) solo show “Pandemic Architectures” (pictured below) opened at John Jay College’s Shiva Gallery in Manhattan.



Bill Jacobsen (7x 96-16) had a solo exhibition in Berlin at the Robert Morat Galerie titled “Bill Jacobson/when is a place.” He also presented “945 Madison Avenue,” a 30-image portfolio (example above) of the former Whitney Museum building’s Marcel Breuer-designed interiors and exteriors after the museum moved and before the new tenant began alterations. It’s on view at Josh Paxda Hiram Butler in Houston.



Painter **Jessica Gandolf** (92, 22) exhibited “Undertow” at Speedwell in Portland, ME. The paintings featured (example above) were completed during a three-year period of deep focus on abstraction.

Nicholas Hill’s (83) *The Pandemic Portraits* exhibition catalogue, edited by Dr. Janice Glowski, was nominated as a finalist for the 2023 Alfred H. Barr Award by the College Art Association.

Painter **Chuck Webster** (04, 17) showed work in three exhibitions in New York. An installation of new paintings at Eva Presenhuber Gallery; a survey show



Photographer **Lorna Bieber** (6x 98-10) held a solo exhibition, “**Natural World**,” at the Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL.

called “25 Years, 10 Paintings and a Box of Drawings” at Sideroom Gallery; and drawings, prints, and a painting at Passageway Books.

Rafael Soldi (22) participated in three exhibitions: “Rafael Soldi: Mother Tongue” at Eastern Washington University’s Gallery of Art, was a solo exhibition; “Soft Mirror” at RULE Gallery in Denver was a group show, as was “The Third, Meaning: Estar(Ser)” at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle.

10 Fellows Receive Prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants

Congratulations are due to 10 MacDowell Fellows for winning 2022-2023 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants. The Fellows are among 93 international visual artists from 15 countries and 14 states selected by the foundation this year to receive nearly \$2.7 million in grants. Since 1985, the foundation has served as one of the leaders in providing resources to emerging and established artists internationally.

MacDowell Fellows include:

- Josh Dorman** (2019)
- Hong Hong** (2020)
- Kakyoun Lee** (2003, 2005)
- Frauke Schlitz** (2017)
- Chuck Webster** (2004, 2017)
- Kevin Wixted** (1995, 1996)
- Kazumi Tanaka** (2015)
- Rehab El Sadek** (2020)
- Ben Durham** (2017)
- Yevgeniya Baras** (2015)

Group Shows and Exhibitions

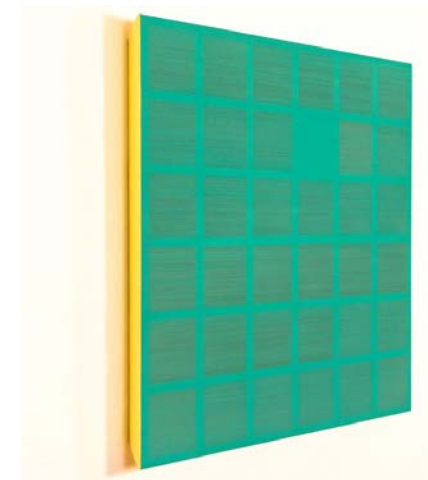
Valerie Hegarty (15) had work in “Changing Landscapes” at The Brooklyn Museum of Art, “North America Divided” (pictured) at The New Britain Museum of American Art, “*Historical Imaginary*” curated by Michael Hartman at The Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, and “Still, Life! Mourning, Meaning, Mending” at the Museum 21C Bentonville, AR, and “American Landscapes: Early Representations and Contemporary Reclamations” at The Wright Museum of Art at Beloit College, WI.



Arte Mediathek TV reported on **Tamiko Thiel's** (13) new AR artwork, *Waldwandel/Forest Flux*. Developed in collaboration with the Bavarian State Forest Enterprise, the work provides an immersive encounter with how climate change is affecting the Bavarian forests. The work was installed at Kunsthalle Munich. Another AR work by Thiel, *Unexpected Growth*, was featured in "The Value of Art" by art trader Michael Findlay, and in its glowing review by the editor of the German art magazine *Monopol*.



Elana Herzog (18, 22) had work in group exhibitions (example above), including "philosophical investigations" curated by Franklin Evans at Platform Projects Space in Brooklyn, "Impulse of An Era" curated by Ché Morales at Albertz Benda Gallery in NY, "Hand Over Hand: Textiles Today" at Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, and "Inspired Encounters: Women Artists and the Legacies of Modern Art" at the new David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center at Pocantico Hills, NY.



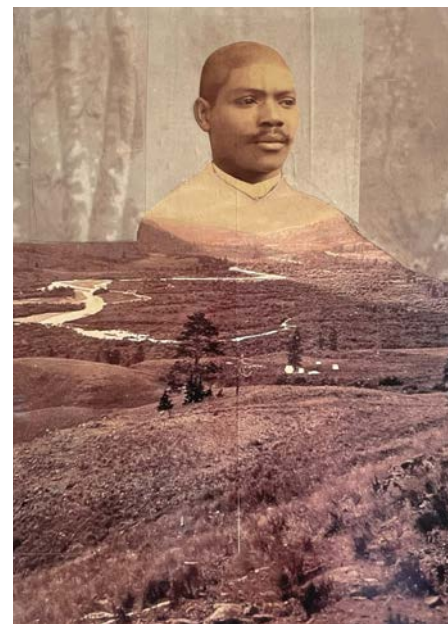
Susan Schwalb (74, 75, 89) participated in several group exhibitions: "Music as Image and Metaphor" (example above) at the Kentler Drawing Space, "The 2023 National Arts Club Artist Members Exhibition" at The National Arts Club in New York, and "The 31st Annual National Arts Club Roundtable Exhibition" at the club's Trask Gallery.

Polly Apfelbaum (92, 93), **Martha Clippinger** (13), and **Julia Rommel** (15) showed recent work in "Chromazones" at Analog Diary in New York.

Five MacDowell Fellows, **Cadence Giersback** (97), **Valerie Hegarty** (15), **Julia Jacquette** (5x 95-15), **Cyriaco Lopes** (19), and **Gelah Penn** (89), showed work in "Mirror Milk" at Satchel Projects in New York. The show gets its inception from the story of Alice (of Alice in Wonderland), as a ramification of an original curiosity and a perpetual desire for that which lies on the other side—and, inversely, the counter-force of denial and loss—a perpetual circuit. The show seeks to explore the mutual longing of one side for the other, the tantalizing impossibility and the wonder that drives us.

Vicki Sher (13) participated in two group shows. *Re-Surface* in April at the George Gallery in Charleston, SC, and *Future Fair* at Chelsea Industrial with Frosch & Co Gallery, NYC where she showed drawings and sculptures, and sold prints of her work.

Tom Judd (01) participated in a collaborative installation (example below) and conversation about the Buffalo Soldiers and their story at the Fort Garland Museum and Culture Center in Southern Colorado.



MEDAL DAY



Edward MacDowell Medal Presented to Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin

More than a thousand arts lovers from around the region gathered on Sunday, July 23 as the 63rd Edward MacDowell Medal was presented to esteemed filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin during a free and open-to-the-public celebration.

After a brief award ceremony, visitors enjoyed a picnic lunch before artists-in-residence opened their studios to

the public, giving attendees the unique opportunity to look behind the scenes of the nation's oldest artist residency and speak with creators about their work.

A member of the Abenaki Nation and one of Canada's most distinguished filmmakers, Alanis Obomsawin joins an august group of [other MacDowell Medal winners](#) such as [Robert Frost](#) (1962),

[Georgia O'Keeffe](#) (1972), [Leonard Bernstein](#) (1987), [Louise Bourgeois](#) (1990), [I.M. Pei](#) (1998), [Sonny Rollins](#) (2010), [Stephen Sondheim](#) (2013), [Toni Morrison](#) (2016), [Charles Gaines](#) (2019), [Rosanne Cash](#) (2021), and [Sonia Sanchez](#) (2022).

Obomsawin, an Abenaki who was born in New Hampshire, which occupies the [traditional homelands of the Western Abenaki people](#), has 56 films to her credit produced by the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), including landmark documentaries like *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance* (1993), documenting the 1990 Mohawk uprising in the villages of Kanehsatake and Oka, Quebec, and the groundbreaking *Incident at Restigouche* (1984), a behind-the-scenes look at Quebec police raids on a Mi'kmaq reserve. Obomsawin's 2019 production *Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger* completed a seven-film cycle devoted to the rights of Indigenous children and peoples, which began in 2011 when she conducted her first interviews for *The People of the Kattawapiskak River*.

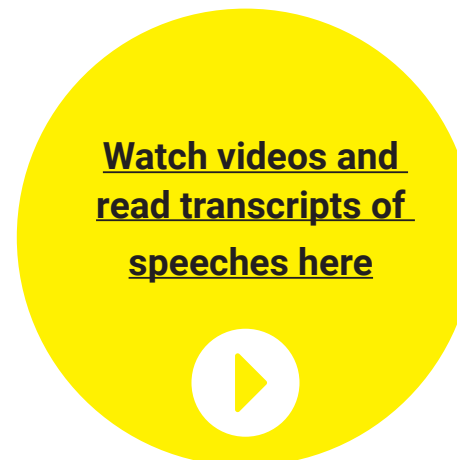
In his remarks outlining Obomsawin's place in the world of art, author Jesse Wente said the filmmaker "has provided the microphone for many to use their voices to speak truth to power. Her cinema is the cinema of listening and giving voice. It's a decolonial approach that existed before such notions were the topic of dissertations, university courses or training seminars.... Her cinema is of the people in a way that most documentaries never even attempt to be. That too has provided a path for an Indigenous cinema ethic that persists. ... It is community-based filmmaking embodied by one individual and her work."



Clockwise from top: The Medal Day crowd reacts to Nell Painter's welcome; Ceremony participants Resident Director David Macy, Board Chair Nell Painter, introductory speaker Jesse Went, Board President Christine Fisher, Medalist Alanis Obomsawin, and Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano; attendees make their ways to open artist studios; Fellows Ayelet Waldman and Michael Chabon enjoy a humorous moment during the speeches.



Clockwise from top left: Painter June Edmonds with visitors to Eastman Studio; picnickers, including MacDowell Board Member Monica Lehner, enjoy the afternoon sun before open studio visits; interdisciplinary artist Cristóbal Cea welcomes visitors to Alexander Studio; speaker and best-selling author Jesse Went gives Edward MacDowell Medalist Alanis Obomsawin a kiss after offering context for the award in his introductory remarks as Madam Chairman of the Board Nell Painter looks on.



Follow the latest developments, news, and artist updates on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @MacDowell1907

EVENTS

National Benefit a Success as Evening in Celebration of Fairfax Dorn Raises \$750,000 in Artist Support

More than 350 Fellows, board members, and guests joined us at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City for our annual MacDowell National Benefit on October 16. Featuring performances and work by MacDowell Fellows, the festive evening also included the presentation of the fourth annual Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award to Fairfax Dorn, co-founder and artistic director of Ballroom Marfa. Special guest and conceptual artist Adam Pendleton presented Dorn with the award and spoke about her life-long commitment to supporting and centering artists' needs. During an evening that celebrated Dorn for her significant support of artists, guests raised more than \$750,000 in funds to provide critical operating support for the 300 artists that come to MacDowell each year from all corners of the globe.

Hosted by Tony Award-nominated actor, writer, and producer Sharon Washington, the benefit also included performances by Fellows of original works, including a kanun performance by **Firas Zreik** (23), an excerpt from **Daniel and Patrick Lazour's** (18) musical *We Live in Cairo*, and a duet from **James Brandon Lewis** (22) and Kirk Knuffke. MacDowell Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano and Benefit Committee Co-chair and board member Katie Firth both spoke about the unique and powerful effect MacDowell has had on our culture, and the essential space MacDowell provides for artists to come to make work and build community. The celebration included a cocktail hour, dinner, and a paddle raise as well as closing remarks by board member, Fellow, and author **Elliott Holt**. (14, 17).



Evening host Sharon Washington introduces Daniel and Patrick Lazour.

BEOWULF SHEEHAN

This year's Benefit also featured artwork MacDowell Fellow **Torkwase Dyson** (16) and postcard prints of **Erin Shirreff's** (09) *Surface Capital*. As guests exited at the end of the evening, they browsed several bookcase walls filled with books by MacDowell Fellows, which they were encouraged to take home and enjoy.



MacDowell Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano addresses the benefit crowd.



Board President Christine Fisher chats with benefit attendees.

BEOWULF SHEEHAN



Artist Adam Pendleton and philanthropist Fairfax Dorn

BEOWULF SHEEHAN



Fairfax Dorn accepts the Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award

ROWENA HUSBANDS



Fellows gather for an oversized group shot.

ROWENA HUSBANDS

Read more about these great talents and others on their pages here at MacDowell.org



Firas Zreik performed on the kanun in May.

MacDowell Downtown Wraps Up 20th Season

MacDowell Downtown continued through spring and summer, with editions at both the Monadnock Center for History and Culture as well as the Peterborough Town Library. In May, composer and first-time Fellow **Firas Zreik** (23) demonstrated his virtuosity on the kanun, a 78-string instrument common to the eastern Mediterranean region. In Zreik's capable hands, it is capable of bridging genres from flamenco to Brazilian, and western classical to the blues.

In June, photographer **Tanya Marcuse** (18, 23, pictured top right) talked about the intricate manipulations and staging behind her large-scale photographs that blend constructed fictions and real landscapes to create fantastical scenes. In July, graphic novelist **James Sturm** (08, 15) spoke about the simple power of the comic book to deliver complex concepts to a wide readership in a Monadnock Lyceum address at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

In August, Pulitzer prize winning author and *The New Yorker* staffer **William Finnegan** (4x 91-23) sat down with essayist and Hancock, NH resident Paul Hertneky to talk about the art of surfing and the journalistic mindset in relation to memoir.

Photographer and first-time MacDowell Fellow **Christopher Iduma** (23) appeared in September to present a series of images that will become part of his current project, "Lagos: The History of Quietude." Combining documentary sensibilities with experi-



JULIE HAMEL

mental and conceptual approaches in the same frame, Iduma reimagined his home city in multi-layered and evocative images he was editing at MacDowell.

In October, composer **Paul Brantley** (6x 94-23) played solo cello pieces, presented video of a recent commission, and spoke about his project composing a sonata for cello and piano—his first—for Laura Metcalf. He was joined by playwright **Sam Grabiner** (23) who read three James Joyce poems Brantley put to music for a double-bass and vocal performance.

Finally, in November, visual artist **Tatiana Arocha** (23) closed the 2023 MacDowell Downtown season by presenting still images and video to immerse the audience in representations of the forests of her native Colombia in an effort "to promote conversation to examine the connections between the War on Drugs and depletion of the rainforest."

Save These Dates!

MAY 18, 2024

The New Hampshire Benefit

JULY 21, 2024

Medal Day

OCTOBER 21, 2024

The National Benefit in NYC

REMEMBERING



art, all of which remained with her to the end. She and her wide-ranging conversations will be greatly missed by both Kathy and myself."

Andrea Kierstead | Former lead housekeeper at MacDowell, Andrea Kierstead, died May 12, 2023 at her home in Hancock, NH. She was 61. Kierstead spent her life living in the Monadnock Region, and was passionate about gardening and the outdoors. She worked at Summerhill Assisted Living before joining the MacDowell staff in 2016, coordinating the work of the housekeeping staff. In addition to providing support for the house manager, she supervised the upkeep of 31 studios, three dormitories, the James Baldwin Library, and the main hall. She also had a small home business called Simply Made Treats to satisfy her cooking and baking pastimes.

Rolaine Hochstein | Writer Rolaine Hochstein, who may have been best known for her short stories, died September 11, 2023. She was 94. She was in residence five times beginning in 1975. Hochstein published features and profiles for the *Washington Post*, the *Toronto Star*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Redbook*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *Good Housekeeping* before turning her hand to fiction, with two novels: *Stepping Out* (Norton, 1977) and *Table 47* (Doubleday, 1983). She also wrote more than 40 short stories, many of which have been translated into French, Hungarian, Chinese, and Japanese. They have also been anthologized in two O. Henry Prize anthologies and a Pushcart Prize anthology, and four have appeared in *La Revista* magazine in Colombia. She was awarded fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, and the New Jersey Council on the Arts. She worked with Writers in the Schools (WITS) with the New Jersey Writers Project. Among her proudest accomplishments was having been the oldest mentor with the writing program Girls Write Now. During her last MacDowell residency in 1994, she met and, for the next three decades, remained friends with visual artist Kathy Grove and playwright and fiction writer Han Ong. Han Ong writes: "Credit Rolie's gift of friendship with the durability of our relationship. She was one of my role models, for her intelligence, her curiosity, and for her great appetite for life and



Shirley Schnell | Painter and illustrator Shirley Ann Luke Schnell, and educator who had a 42-year career teaching in the foundations department at the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), died at home in Independence, Missouri, on March 30, 2023. She was 86. Shirley earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Minneapolis College of Art & Design in 1958 and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 1963. After graduation from

Yale Shirley taught at the Minneapolis College of Art & Design and the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. In 1961 she married photographer Lloyd Schnell and in 1966 the couple moved to Kansas City where they both took teaching positions at KCAI. She was in residence in 1976. Her work has been shown throughout the United States and in Canada, Japan, and Ireland. She exhibited at the Invitational Easter at the White House in 1987. Her work resides in the permanent collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and at the State Historical Society of Missouri. She was the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Craig Shuler | Composer Craig Shuler, who directed numerous choirs and bands, and holds the distinction of being commissioned by American Ballet Theater to score a new ballet by Robert Weiss at the age of 26, died November 1, 2022 in Oneonta, NY. After earning a bachelor of music degree from North Texas State University and master's and doctoral degrees in composition from the Julliard School where he studied with Elliott Carter and Roger Sessions, he was awarded the George Gershwin Memorial Foundation Scholarship and Alexander Gretchaninoff Memorial Prize. He also earned an ABD degree in musicology from NYU. Shuler studied composition, theory, musicology, conducting, and piano in Florence Italy; at Northwestern University, and with artists of the Chicago Symphony, New York Pro-Arte Chorale, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He was in residence in 1973, 1976, and 2012. A Fulbright sent him to study in Italy with Maestro Luigi Dallapiccola in 1974. He was on the dance faculty at Julliard, teaching literature and materials of music, and he also taught composition at Julliard's pre-college. He also taught at Moravian College, Hartwick College, and SUNY Oneonta. He was heavily involved in the musical theatre scene in Oneonta, as well as many other productions around upstate New York, and directed the Oneonta Boys Choir.



Graphic novelist **James Sturm** spoke at the Monadnock Summer Lyceum hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Peterborough in July.



Lewis Spratlan I | Composer Lewis Spratlan, who won a Pulitzer Prize for the opera *Life Is a Dream* 22 years after he completed the work, died on February 9, 2023 in Lumberton, N.J. He was 82. He was destined to a performing career as an oboist when he applied to a graduate program to be a composer and taught music while he wrote. He said he found profoundly important and kept at it for 36 years. He was in residence six times between 1976 and 1986. Spratlan began composing what would become his most honored piece of music in 1975 when the New Haven Opera Theater commissioned *Life Is a Dream*. But the company went out of business before he finished it in 1978. Spratlan finally raised enough money to fund two performances of its second act in January 2000, then submitted the piece to the Pulitzer committee. A few months later, he discovered that

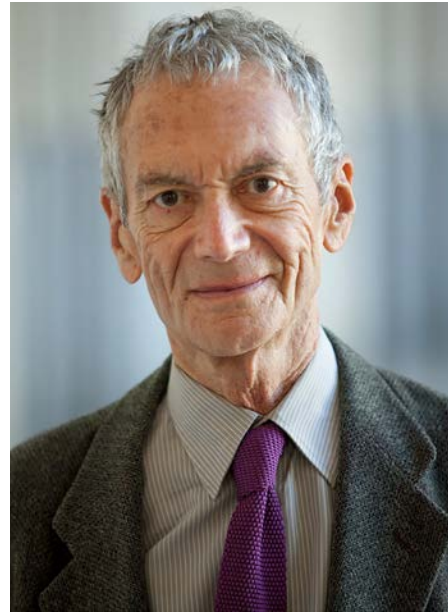


he had won on the afternoon of April, 10, 2000, while in a meeting with a student at Amherst College. Despite his enthusiasm for the work, he was caught off-guard by its delayed success. Even after the opera was honored with the Pulitzer, a decade passed until all three acts of *Life Is a Dream* were performed in their entirety by the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico in 2010. In 2016, the American Academy of Arts and Letters honored Spratlan with the Charles Ives Opera Prize for *Life Is a Dream*.

Edward Armen Stasack I | Printmaker, painter, sculptor, and educator Edward Armen Stasack died in Prescott, AZ on January 26, 2023. He was 93. A Chicago native, Stasack earned his B.F.A. and M.F.A. at the University of Illinois at Urbana, focusing on painting and

printmaking. He then went on to teach at the University of Hawaii at Honolulu's art department, where he eventually became chairman (1969 - 1973) and program chairman in printmaking (1973-1986). He was in residence in 1971 and 1975. Stasack was an early experimenter with the collagraph and is often credited with the invention of the Masonite-intaglio process. His method of creating his collographs is described on pages 322 and 323 of Fritz Eichenberg's informative book on the history of printmaking, *The Art of the Print*. Stasack has also worked as a sculptor, including working with precast concrete murals and wood. Once retired from teaching, he dedicated his life to the preservation and recording of Hawaiian Petroglyphs, ensuring that the enduring legacy of Hawaiian Rock Art will be preserved. Stasack has held numerous one-man exhibitions in the United States and abroad, including at the Honolulu Academy of Arts (1961, '69, '76, and 1987); Downtown Gallery, New York (1965); Cleveland Institute of Art (1976); exhibitions in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, and Bucharest (1976); Amfac Center, Honolulu (1979); among others. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; New York Public Library; the Brooklyn Museum; Library of Congress; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and several others.

Ronald Steel I | Writer Ronald Steel, an historian who remained steadfastly critical of U.S. postwar and Cold War policy, and wrote prolifically in essays and books, died May 7, 2023 in Washington, D.C. He was 92. In its obituary, Steel was described by *The New York Times* as "a bookish, small-town boy from Illinois who became a soldier, wanderer, translator, diplomat, journalist, author and professor." He graduated from Northwestern University in 1953 with a B.A. in political science and English and earned a master's degree in political economy from Harvard in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army in Paris as a translator, joined the Foreign Service and became vice consul



in Hamburg and returned to the U.S. to become editor of Scholastic Magazines. He started work on his best-known book, *Walter Lippmann and the American Century*, in the early 1970s, possibly working on it in residence in 1970 and 1972. He likely made final edits for *Imperialists and Other Heroes: A Chronicle of the American Empire* in residence. Steel was a professor emeritus of international relations, history, and journalism at the University of Southern California. Before teaching at USC, he taught at Yale University, Rutgers University, Wellesley College, Dartmouth College, George Washington University, UCLA, and Princeton University. Later, Steel wrote for *The New Republic* in the 1980s. He has also written for the *Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *The New York Review of Books*.

Blair Tindall I | Concert oboist and writer Blair Tindall, whose 2005 memoir *Mozart In The Jungle* was adapted into a hit 2014 comedy-drama series on Amazon Prime, died of heart disease in Los Angeles on April 12, 2023. She was 63. Tindall, who completed the first draft of *Mozart In The Jungle*, which would be published by Grove Atlantic Press, in residence in 2004. Tindall was an oboist for the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra

of St. Luke's before turning her experiences in the classical music world into the best-selling and critically lauded memoir. The book was optioned by actor Jason Schwartzman, who with his cousin Roman Coppola, director Paul Weitz, and Broadway director Alex Timbers created the Amazon series. The show, which starred Lola Kirke, Gael García Bernal (who won a Golden Globe Award for his performance), Bernadette Peters, and Malcolm McDowell, ran for four seasons (2014-2018). The series won a 2016 Golden Globe for Best Comedy Series. Tindall also performed on various film soundtracks including *The Inkwell*, *Crooklyn*, and *Malcom X*. Her cover story on John Steinbeck's tidepools appeared in the May/June 2004 issue of *Sierra Magazine*.

Joe Swayze I | Joseph (Joe) Couse Swayze, photographer and journalist, and a long-time teacher who inspired students to seek the truth in words and imagery, died July 11, 2022 at home in Rockport, MA of congestive heart

failure. He was 77. A 1966 graduate of Williams College, Joe spent a year in Vietnam as a U.S. Army information officer, writing news stories, making photographs, and escorting journalists in the field. He said that a day he



spent with Larry Burrows, a legendary British combat photographer, inspired him to make photography a part of his life. Swayze returned to Massachusetts to work for the *Bennington Banner* and the *Berkshire Eagle* for a time before becoming a teacher and sharing his passion for journalism with students at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA for 33 years. He also taught the Young Photographers class for many summers at the Maine Photographic Workshops. He was in residence in 2001.

Swayze led numerous student trips that included canoeing down the Hudson River, as well as biking adventures in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, and along the coast of California. And he always had his camera in hand, capturing portraits of life and nature. Over the years, Swayze student disciples ended up at *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, and other media outlets.

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Tom Nussbaum (06, 05, 07) and his studio (pictured) appeared on the new TV show ArtNation on the Smithsonian Channel. Brassworks Gallery in Montclair, NJ, hosted his show *Step Right Up* and he was honored by the Montclair Art Museum at their gala.

MacDowell is published twice a year. We also produce a bimonthly eNews and are active on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Fellows may send newsworthy items to be included to fellowsnews@macdowell.org.

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The names of MacDowell Fellows and works conceived and/or created during residencies are noted in **bold** throughout this newsletter.

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MacDowell awards Fellowships to artists of exceptional talent, providing time, space, and an inspiring environment in which to do creative work. MacDowell 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. MacDowell was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1997 for "nurturing and inspiring many of this century's finest artists."

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