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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A New Season

JULIE BRIDGHAM

"…for
What is to Come
What we must know
What we must be…
My heart is evergreen"
Carolyn M. Rodgers

My first visit to the MacDowell grounds included a tour of the James Baldwin Library. As many of you know, in walking around this masterpiece, a visitor discovers many beautiful moments, but for me, few are more beautiful than the southwest corner where one finds two Womb Chairs placed adjacent to long shelves filled with the work of MacDowell Fellows past and present. The chairs are turned outward, facing an array of tall windows. During my winter visit, these windows framed a snowy wonderland, and during my recent spring visit, they were alive with a joyful portrait of emerging wildflowers in the meadow.

As I become acclimated to my new role as executive director, and as I get to know this wonderful community, I have been thinking of duality and of the changing seasons. MacDowell is a constant in the artistic community and has been so since its inception. And yet we do not exist in a vacuum. Organizations and communities like ours have been impacted by the wider tides of a shifting culture that have affected us all in innumerable ways these last few years. How does MacDowell sustain and amplify its venerable legacy in an age of such tremendous transformation? Have we met the moment? In MacDowell's third century, will our inheritors look back and judge us kindly and see all the ways in which we, as a community, navigated this historical inflection point in a way that centers the care of artists first and foremost? I certainly hope so. All things have a season and this is certainly a new one for MacDowell in many ways. Our charge is to honor our legacy at the same time we embrace what comes next. The enduring rule is that our mission of centering the care of artists is and will always be our true north.

The poet Carolyn M. Rodgers writes of the evergreen heart. It is an idea that wills us not to be jaded but to remain focused on the beauty and bounty that is always before us. The last few years have been turbulent, but a new season of possibility is upon us.

Thank you for welcoming me into this community. I am so grateful to be here.

In friendship,

Chiwoniso Kaitano
Executive Director

On the Cover:
While at MacDowell last winter, interdisciplinary artist **Brigitta Varadi,** who was born in Hungary and is based in Pine Plains, NY, made work for a solo show at Kapok Gallery in New York scheduled for March of 2024. Here, she wears a handmade red Hunia, a traditional shepherd's woolen raggedy coat that she wore while filming a performance in different outdoor locations on MacDowell's grounds. Through an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating colors, textures, performance, and video work evoking her memories of many summer childhood stays with her great-grandfather in Tyushka, a small mountain village in Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine, her work delves into tradition, craft, and the everyday rituals of working life. She investigates themes of sustainability and cultural heritage through a combination of research, material experimentation, and community workshops.

Hunia from the "Permission to be" series at MacDowell, 2023.
Image courtesy of Brigitta Varadi

NEWS

MacDowell Medal to be Awarded to Acclaimed Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin

MacDowell will award filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin the 63rd Edward MacDowell Medal on Sunday, July 23, 2023. MacDowell has awarded the Medal annually since 1960 to an individual artist who has made an outstanding contribution to their field. Obomsawin, whose career as a filmmaker has spanned six decades, is known as a clear-eyed chronicler of the lives and concerns of First Nations people who explores issues of universal importance. She is the first woman filmmaker to receive the award.

"I am very honored," said Obomsawin, reflecting on previous Medalists. "Obviously, these are people who have accomplished quite a lot, and it is a distinct pleasure to be counted among such a magnificent group." She joins a notable cohort of past Medal recipients, including **Robert Frost** (1962), **Georgia O'Keeffe** (1972), **John Updike** (1981), **Stan Brakhage** (1989), **Toni Morrison** (2016), **David Lynch** (2017), **Rosanne Cash** (2021), and **Sonia Sanchez** (2022).

Obomsawin, an Abenaki who was born in New Hampshire, 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*.

"As the Grand Dame of the Indigenous film world and the documentary field,

Alanis Obomsawin, one of the most acclaimed Indigenous directors in the world, will receive the 63rd Edward MacDowell Medal on July 23, 2023 in Peterborough. *Portrait by Scott Stevens*

Alanis Obomsawin's exemplary 52-year body of work uplifting Indigenous stories and triumph inspired us with compelling and unequivocal enthusiasm to award her with the 2023 Edward MacDowell Medal," said Bird Runningwater, member of the Medal Selection Panel and guide for the Sundance Institute's investment in Native American and Indigenous filmmakers. "Even more special is that Alanis Obomsawin descends from the Abenaki People, and MacDowell's residency program takes place in Wabanaki, the Dawnland, on the traditional homelands of the Western Abenaki. This marks the first time MacDowell honors someone from the Indigenous lands where the residency has historically taken place."

Joining Runningwater on the Selection Panel were 2023 Selection Panel chair

and former head of the Sundance Film Festival **Tabitha Jackson**; MacDowell Fellows and filmmakers **Natalia Almada**, **Rodney Evans**, and **So Yong Kim**; MacDowell board member and Fellow **Julia Solomonoff**; and board member Josh Siegel, who is a film curator at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

Award-winning speaker and best-selling author Jesse Wente will introduce Obomsawin during the ceremony and speak to her impact on the documentary genre as well as her activism in support of Indigenous and marginalized people. Wente, who is board chair of Canada's Council for the Arts and a former co-executive director of the Indigenous Screen Office, is an off-reserve member of the Serpent River First Nation. He is best known for more than two decades as a columnist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's program "Metro Morning" and has curated film programs that have included Obomsawin's works.

Obomsawin began her career as a singer, writer, and storyteller, but came to the attention of NFB and was invited to consult on Indigenous filmmaking at the public producer and distributor. She began making her own films in 1971, has received numerous international honors, and her work was showcased in a 2008 retrospective at MoMA. She is a Companion of the Order of Canada (C.C.), Grande Officière of the Ordre national du Québec (G.O.Q.), and a member of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (C.A.L.Q.), as well as holding many other distinctions and honorary degrees.

In addition to being the first woman filmmaker to be awarded the MacDowell Medal, Obomsawin is the fifth filmmaker overall to be honored. The others, in addition to Brakhage and Lynch, are **Chuck Jones** (1997) and **Les Blank** (2007).

Obomsawin will receive the Edward MacDowell Medal from Madam Chairman of the Board, Fellow, and best-selling author **Nell Painter** during a free, public event on July 23, 2023. The presentation, which often draws more than 1,000 visitors from around the country, offers the public the opportunity to bring a lunch or purchase one, and visit 31 open, working studios to see where art is being created and speak with its creators.

Click here to find out about ordering a lunch basket and sponsoring the event.

Chiwoniso Kaitano Named MacDowell Executive Director with Charge to Deepen Access for All Artists

Chiwoniso "Chi" Kaitano has joined MacDowell as executive director, the 10th person to lead the organization since 1907. MacDowell's board of directors unanimously appointed Kaitano at a special meeting in February after an international search conducted by Management Consultants for the Arts. The former executive director of Girl Be Heard, a global NGO that advocates for social change through performing arts and storytelling in all of its forms, Kaitano succeeded Philip Himberg, who retired after serving as a transitional leader.

"I look forward to working with the board and staff to sustain and grow funding and to build upon the extraordinary vision for artist support that Edward and Marian MacDowell articulated when they welcomed the first artists-in-residence," said Kaitano, who began her job in MacDowell's New York offices on March 13. "Imagining and joyfully meeting the ever-evolving needs of contemporary artists is how MacDowell can and will continue to be a pioneering champion for the value of the arts in our society. I am thrilled and honored to be part of advancing this important mission."

CASSANDRA YERKES

Executive Director Chi Kaitano (left) and Fellow Jessica Stern (right) chat with guests in the James Baldwin Library during the New Hampshire Benefit (see story page 17).

MacDowell's board recognized in Kaitano the leadership qualities and experience needed to advance the long-standing mission of nurturing artists by removing obstacles to creativity. In her new role, Kaitano will identify and deepen sources of support, build meaningful new relationships, and intensify outreach to an ever-widening variety of artistic voices.

She spent the last four years at the helm of Girl Be Heard, expanding its organizational budget, increasing individual giving by 200 percent, and growing both the staff and board. Prior to Girl Be Heard, she served as executive director of Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy, a 30-year-old Brooklyn, NY-based arts and culture organization.

"As Madam Chairman, I take enormous pleasure in welcoming Chiwoniso Kaitano to MacDowell as our new executive director," said author **Nell Painter**, who, in addition to chairing the MacDowell board is also a three-time Fellow. "Ms. Kaitano brings a deep understanding of the financial challenges facing all arts organizations today in the wake of the pandemic, and her personal warmth, enthusiasm, and know-how will serve MacDowell well in the years to come. Our search was rigorous, all our finalists compelling. But Chi's expertise, energetic and collaborative methods of engagement, and inspiring leadership qualities proved irresistible."

Kaitano will propel MacDowell's creative mission, which pioneered the radical but simple idea that artists would benefit greatly from immersion in a multi-disciplinary community of exceptionally talented peers where intellectual exchange and ideal working conditions are the norm. Kaitano will work mainly from the Chelsea, New York office, while **David Macy** will continue to serve as MacDowell's resident director in New Hampshire.

"After identifying the strongest candidates, board leadership deftly arranged staff participation in the interview sequence," said Macy. "With so many positive interactions in the process leading to Chi accepting this post, I and the rest of the staff are already filled with enthusiasm regarding her capacity to bring out the best in MacDowell."

Originally from Zimbabwe, Kaitano holds a law degree from the London School of Economics and a master's in international affairs from Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs. She began her career in human rights activism, where she helped build community programs for non-profits such as the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and SEEDCO. She serves on the boards of the International Contemporary Ensemble, The Center for Fiction, the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance, and the Jazz Leaders Fellowship—a program of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music—and is founder of the literary series TheSALON. She is an avid traveler and has lived on three continents.

MacDowell and Institute of American Indian Arts Offer New Creative Writing Fellowship to MFAs

New Fellowship highlights MacDowell's desire to support Indigenous voices and continues efforts to improve access to residency program.

MacDowell and the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) **are joining together to offer a new Fellowship program for graduates of the IAIA's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFACW)** at the nation's longest-running artist residency. By combining resources, the new Fellowship expands MacDowell's efforts to foster equity within the arts by creating opportunities for an ever-expanding community of artists.

"It is immeasurably satisfying to be able to announce this partnership with the Institute of American Indian Arts," said former MacDowell Executive Director Philip Himberg. "We are pleased to extend the singular interdisciplinary experience of a MacDowell residency to artists we have historically struggled to reach, and it provides us a tangible example of how we can and should act to support a diversity of voices that will enrich our culture."

MacDowell supports the idea that the IAIA's MFACW program is "changing the literary landscape," and has found common purpose in beginning what it hopes is a long association with the IAIA – "the birthplace of contemporary Indigenous art, literature, and fashion." Through this partnership, MacDowell and IAIA will share resources and networks to amplify the work of each and pursue common goals. All graduates considered for the IAIA Fellowship would need to comply with MacDowell's long-standing application process. This alliance also reflects

IAIA®
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

MacDowell's commitment to making the residency program more accessible to Indigenous artists and continues along a path of new outreach actions that include Virtual MacDowell, in which participants with similarities in backgrounds and life experiences share critical and constructive feedback. Sessions with Indigenous Fellows resulted in the first-time creation of a cohort of Indigenous artists-in-residence this past summer, which gave participants the opportunity to uplift each other as a community rather than experience MacDowell individually as the solitary Indigenous artist on site. The cohort also met with local Indigenous artists to share ideas and their art.

"Many of our IAIA MFACW students come from small communities, and the opportunity to engage in conversations with artists and writers from around the world is indispensable," said **Deborah Jackson Taffa**, director of the IAIA's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program and a 2021 MacDowell Fellow in literature. "Not only will they learn from the engagement; they will see how much they have to offer in return.

> "Many of our IAIA MFACW students come from small communities, and **the opportunity to engage in conversations with artists and writers from around the world is indispensable.** Not only will they learn from the engagement; they will see how much they have to offer in return."
>
> — Deborah Jackson Taffa, director of the IAIA's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program and a 2021 MacDowell Fellow in literature

Good books happen in conversation with other intellectuals and being at MacDowell is affirming as it offers a seat at the table. The residency acts as a mirror, offering perspective on home and history, the very places our students seek to depict in their writing."

Since its beginnings on the Santa Fe Indian School campus, the IAIA has been acquiring and exhibiting its students' artworks, forming a collection that became the foundation of the world's premier museum representing contemporary Indigenous arts and cultures--the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (MoCNA). MoCNA continues expanding its renowned collection of nearly 10,000 artworks, curating numerous progressive and innovative exhibitions, both traveling and at its museum in downtown Santa Fe.

MacDowell residencies last from two to six weeks, with an average duration of 30 days. Each residency includes use of a private studio with discipline-specific amenities, three meals a day, and living accommodations. The opportunity for artists-in-residence to engage with creators in other disciplines and backgrounds is vital to the program, and MacDowell is ensuring that it can continue to take place while expanding it to a greater diversity of artists. The relationships formed between artists often spark inspiration and long-term creative partnerships.

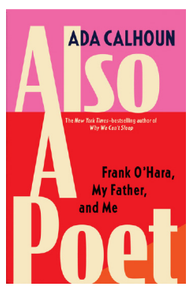
Ilya Kaminsky

Patricia Smith

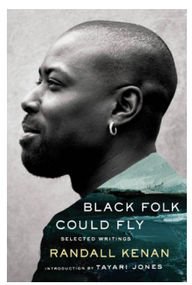
Academy of American Poets Board of Chancellors Picks Two Fellows

Two MacDowell Fellows, **Ilya Kaminsky** (09,16) and **Patricia Smith** (12) are among four poets (joining Kimiko Hahn and Ed Roberson) that have been elected to the 15-member Academy of American Poets Board of Chancellors to serve a term of six years before rotating onto an Emeritus Board. Congratulations!

12 Fellows' Titles Make 2022 *New York Times* Notable Books List

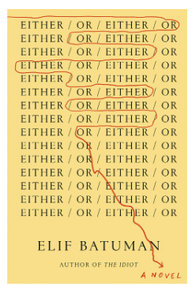


Also a Poet by **Ada Calhoun** (13)

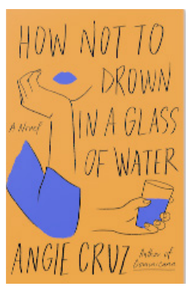


Black Folk Could Fly by **Randall Kenan** (90)

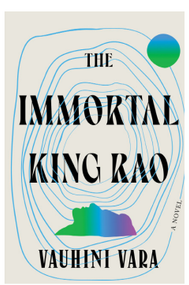
Didn't Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta by **James Hannaham** (5x 00-17)



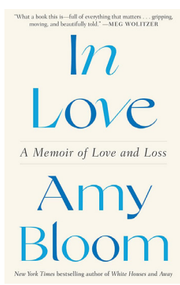
Either/Or by **Elif Batuman** (18)



How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water by **Angie Cruz** (01, 02)

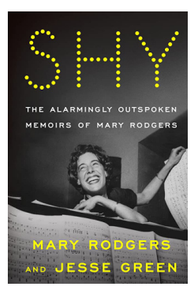


The Immortal King Rao by **Vauhini Vara** (13)

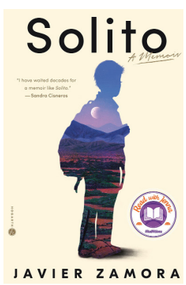


In Love by **Amy Bloom** (7x 04-17)

Pure Colour by **Sheila Heti** (19)



Shy: The Alarmingly Outspoken Memoirs of Mary Rodgers by **Jesse Green** (88) and Mary Rodgers

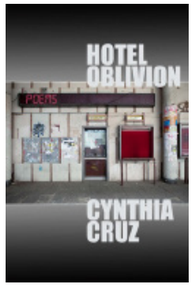


Solito by **Javier Zamora** (16)

The Latecomer by **Jean Hanff Korelitz** (88, 89)

2023 Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Trust* by **Hernan Diaz** (19)

Cynthia Cruz Wins National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry



Congratulations are due to **Cynthia Cruz** (4x 99-05) for winning a National Book Critics Circle Award for her poetry collection *Hotel Oblivion*. Kudos also go to two other Fellows who earned nominations: **Jennifer Croft** (16, 21) for her translation of *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk, and **Vauhini Vara** (13) for the John Leonard Prize for debut fiction for ***The Immortal King Rao***, which Vauhini wrote in part during her MacDowell residency in our Monday Music Studio!

Four USA Fellows are MacDowell Fellows

Alex Marzano-Lesnevich (11,15), **Ilya Kaminsky** (09, 16), **Eisa Davis** (99), and **Hong Hong** (20) were named as 2023 United States Artists (USA) Fellows**.** The four MacDowell Fellows are among a group of 45 USA Fellows across 10 creative disciplines who will receive unrestricted $50,000 cash awards. The award honors their creative accomplishments and supports their ongoing artistic and professional development. USA Fellowships are awarded to artists at all stages of their careers and from all areas of the country through a rigorous nomination and panel selection process. Fellowships are awarded in the following disciplines: Architecture & Design, Craft, Dance, Film, Media, Music, Theater & Performance, Traditional Arts, Visual Art, and Writing.

Helen MacAlister (96) showed in a solo exhibition "The Glamour of Backwardness" at Art First, London.

Four Earn Creative Capital "Wild Futures: Art, Culture, Impact" Awards

Katherine Behar (13, 17), **Yanira Castro** (22), **Bang Geul Han** (09), **and Ethan Lipton** (18) are a part of Creative Capital 2023. The 2023 Creative Capital "Wild Futures: Art, Culture, Impact" Awards represent 50 projects by 66 artists from all over the country. Creative Capital awarded groundbreaking projects focused on Technology, Performing Arts, and Literature as well as Multidisciplinary and Socially Engaged forms.

Yanira Castro

Katherine Behar

Ethan Lipton

Jason Reynolds

Fellows Rack Up 2023 Youth Media Awards from American Library Association

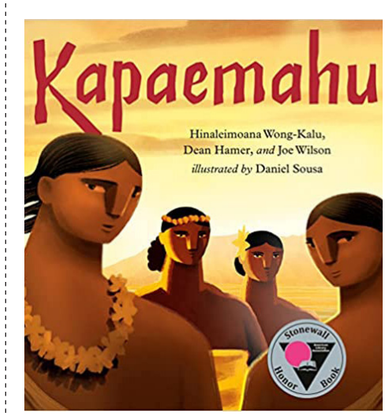
Ain't Burned All the Bright by **Jason Reynolds** (22) and illustrated by Jason Griffin, was named one of four Caldecott Honor Books this year by the American Library Association. The book is published by Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/ Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. Additionally, Reynolds, whose books include *Long Way Down, Ghost, All American Boys*, and *When I Was the Greatest*, won the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. But it doesn't stop there: The Odyssey Award for the best audiobook produced for children and young adults (English language, U.S.) went to *Stuntboy, in the Meantime*, produced by Taryn Beato for Simon & Schuster Audio and written by Reynolds. The book was narrated by Guy Lockard, Nile Bullock, and Angel Pean with a full cast.

The Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award was bestowed on *We Deserve Monuments*, written by **Jas Hammonds** (20). The book is published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality, written by **Eliot Schrefer** (16) and published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, was awarded with the Printz Honor.

The Alex Awards are given to the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences, and one went to *Solito: A Memoir*, by **Javier Zamora** (16)**,** published by Hogarth, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House.

Finally, **Daniel Sousa** (11) illustrated *Kapaemahu*, written by Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson; the tale was one of four Honor Books in the Children's Book category of the Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's Literature Awards for "English-language works of exceptional merit for children or teens relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience."



The American Academy of Arts and Letters' Charles Ives Opera Prize, made possible by the royalties from Charles Ives's music, has been awarded to composer **Laura Elise Schwendinger** (11x 94-21) and librettist **Ginger Strand** (05, 06, 08) for ***Artemisia***. The opera – worked on at MacDowell – is based on the life of 17th-century Italian painter Artemisia entileschi. *Artemisia* premiered at the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble in 2019 and received an OPERA America Discovery Grant. As composer, Schwendinger will receive $35,000, and Strand, as librettist, will receive $15,000.

Composer **Missy Mazzoli** (3x 09-13) and librettist Royce Vavrek will each receive a Marc Blitzstein Memorial Award of $10,000 for their collaborations on operas *Breaking the Waves, Proving Up, Songs from the Uproar*, and *The Listeners*.

Rufus Reid

Composer Rufus Reid Honored at Annual Giants of Jazz

Jazz composer **Rufus Reid** (3x 10-16) was honored last November at the South Orange Performing Arts Center in New Jersey during the 23rd annual Giants of Jazz Festival. The concert featured nearly 30 performers who returned to the center for the first time since its shuttering due to the pandemic.

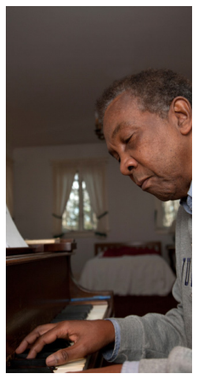
Six Fellows Earn 2023 NAACP Image Nominations

Six Fellows earned nominations for the 54th NAACP Image Awards, this year honoring a trove of outstanding achievements and performances of people of color across television, music, streaming, podcasts, literature, and film, and the promotion of social justice through their creative endeavors. Among the nominees are filmmaker **Margaret Brown** (16) and writer **Essie Chambers** (16) for Outstanding Documentary (Film) for their Netflix production *Descendant*; screenwriter-director **Dee Rees** (12, 14) for Outstanding Directing in a Comedy Series for directing the episode *Hamoodi* in the series "Upload"; **Jacqueline Woodson** (4x 90-09) and Rafael Lopez for Outstanding Literary Work – Children for the book *The Year We Learned to Fly*; **Ama Codjoe** (18) for Outstanding Literary Work – Poetry for her collection *Bluest Nude*; and finally, **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins** (12, 15, 16) was nominated in two categories, Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Television) for "Kindred," the FX mini series adapted from the Octavia E. Butler novel and Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series for penning the program's first episode.

Vivian Gornick, Carman Moore, Cecilia Vicuña Named to American Academy of Arts and Letters

Three Fellows, author **Vivian Gornick** (82, 85), composer **Carman Moore** (12, 14), and poet **Cecilia Vicuña** (04) will be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters (AAAL) on May 24. The academy, founded in 1898 as an honor society of the country's leading architects, artists, composers, and writers (early members included the likes of Julia Ward Howe, Henry James, **Edward MacDowell**, Theodore Roosevelt, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Edith Wharton), has 300 members who are elected for life. In addition to electing new members as vacancies occur, the Academy seeks to foster and sustain an interest in Literature, Music, and the Fine Arts by administering over 70 awards and prizes totaling more than $1 million, exhibiting art and manuscripts, purchasing artwork for donation, funding theatrical works, and presenting talks and concerts.

Vivian Gornick



Carman Moore

Cecilia Vicuña

Guggenheims Awarded to 19 Fellows

Congratulations to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 2023 Fellows, which include 19 MacDowell Fellows, one of whom is a board member*. The Guggenheims are an annual award made across ten different disciplines. In total, 171 individuals were chosen from a rigorous application and peer review process of almost 2,500 applicants. Successful applicants were appointed on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise. Fellow winners include:

Jon Kinzel (20), choreography
Kristina Wong (10), drama & performance
Kali Fajardo-Anstine (18, 21), fiction
James Hannaham (4x 00-17), fiction
Jacqueline Woodson (4x 90-09), fiction
Sierra Pettengill (19), filmmaking
Pamela Council (19), visual art
Jiha Moon (10), visual art
Lavar Munroe (15), visual art
John Jerome O'Connor (17), visual art
Jessica Segall (13), visual art
Liana Finck (16), nonfiction
Beth Macy (15), nonfiction

Keith Fitch (98, 01), music composition
Eun Young Lee (10), music composition
Christina Seely (09), photography
Nicky Beer (17), poetry
Kathy Fagan (3x 88-94), poetry
***Mabel O. Wilson** (10, 17), architecture

Jerome Foundation Grants Awarded to Two Fellows

Fiction writer **Jenny Xie** (17) and playwright **Jeesun Choi** (23) are grant recipients in the third round of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowships program for 2023. Fifty-four Fellowships are awarded to early-career artists based in Minnesota and New York City (eight each in the fields of dance; film, video, and digital production; literature; music; theater; and visual arts; and three in each of the newly-added fields of technology centered arts and combined artistic fields).

More Film and Video Releases

Corinne Spencer (19) showed a solo video exhibition at Cornell's Cherry Gallery called "At the Threshold" supported by the university's Migrations Initiative. It featured video work from her projects "HUNGER" and "Splendor," exploring longing and spiritual homecoming in the black feminine experience and ran from February through April.

Shelly Silver (5x 05-15) screened four films (1986-2019) and spoke about

More Music Composition News

Jerome Kitzke (5x 07-20) premiered his work *I Am Waiting* as part of "Concert for The Midterms - Political Music That Kicks Ass" at The DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York last September.

Pamela Madsen's (19) commissioned work *Laguna Beach Suite: From the Canyons to the Sea* premiered in September. The concert included selections from her NEA/Opera America-awarded new work *Why Women Went West*. https://vimeo.com/750097684

Caroline Davis (19) performed at Nova Arts in Keene, NH playing a solo saxophone set similar to the one featured on the MacDowell Conversation About Social Justice pages. https://www.macdowell.org/special-projects/social-justice-art-1

Alicia Svigals (14) continued her series of Klezmer cine-concerts in September, November, and December accompanying the silent films *City Without Jews* and *Man Without a World*.

Meira Warshauer's (08) *In Memoriam* was performed by cellist Velleda Miragias as part of the 10th Annual Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence at St. Marks' Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. in December.

Peter Kronreif (21) composed and recorded the song "Midnight Sun" in five days in Irving Fine studio at MacDowell. It was released in December.

Several discs containing **Anthony Cheung's** (22) music have been released: *Music for Film, Sculpture and Captions*, *All Roads (New Focus)*, *Bertrand Chamayou: Messiaen's Vingt Regards sur l' Enfant- Jèsus* and *Shai Wosner: Variations on a Theme by FDRI*.

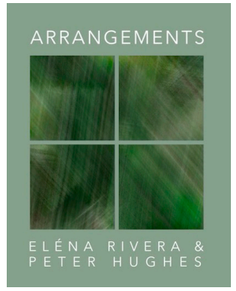
Paul Brantley (5x 94-16) taught at the 92nd St Y in New York and had a winter residency at the University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music working with student composers. The Curtis Institute of Music will present Brantley's commissioned piece for their centennial *Cardinal Sonatina* and The Inwood Art Works in New York will be presenting two events regarding his "Lifeline Song-Cycles."

the work with Amal Issa at the e-flux Screening Room in Brooklyn, NY in February.

Kimi Takesue (4x 01-16) premiered her documentary *Onlookers* at Utah's Slamdance Film Festival in January. She worked on the film during her most recent residency. It offers a visually striking, immersive meditation on travel and tourism in Laos, reflecting on how we all live as observers. Traversing the country's dusty roads and tranquil rivers, we watch as elaborate painterly tableaus unfold, revealing the whimsical and at times disruptive interweaving of locals and foreigners at rest and play.

Three Earn National Endowment for the Arts Grants

National Endowment for the Arts awards grants to nonprofit organizations, creative writers and translators, state arts agencies, and regional arts organizations in support of arts projects across the country. **Bojan Louis** (11), **Bradley Trumpfheller** (19), and **E.J. Koh** (14) have been selected.



Latest Book Releases

Arrangements by **Eléna Rivera** (05, 20) and Peter Hughes

Year Zero to Economic Miracle: Hans Schwippert and Sep Ruf in West German Building Culture 1949-63 by **Lynnette Widder** (22)

Imperfect Present, a seventh collection of poems by **Sharon Dolin** (3x 09-21). In June her book of translations *Late to the House of Words: Selected Poems by Gemma Gorga* was shortlisted for the 2022 Griffin Poetry Prize.

Architecture's Theory, a fourth book by MacDowell; board member **Catherine Ingraham** (7x 01- 14)

The Promise of a Normal Life, a debut novel by **Rebecca Kaiser Gibson** (96)

The Poetics of Wrongness, a novel by **Rachel Zucker** (18), which was completely rewritten at MacDowell in 2018.

Likeness (full-color visual poems) by **Katrina Roberts** (92)

The Language of Trees, a novel by **Katie Holten** (19)

The Natural Hustle, a novel by **Eva H.D.** (17)

black god mother this body is the fourth collection from poet **Raina J. León** (07)
The Choreography of Everyday Life by **Annie B Parson (16)**

Big Softy:
Softy was a site-specific installation created by architect **Bryony Roberts** (18) and Bryony Roberts Studio and was featured at Lincoln Center Plaza in New York last September. Commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Big Umbrella Festival, it was designed for young audiences with autism and other developmental disabilities and transformed the main plaza into a soft and interactive environment. The colorful radial organization of cushions creates a range of social and sensory conditions, with concentrated areas for play and socializing around the fountain and more private areas around the edges for restorative moments. The smaller cushions can be moved around to create social clusters or quiet areas away from a crowd. The soft cushions offer the chance to find soothing relaxation even in a large public space. *Project Team Tung Nguyen; photo by Michael Vahrenwald.*

The cushions are created with recycled foam, and were stored for a possible future reinstallation.

MacDowell Filmmakers Well Represented at Sundance, SXSW, and Berlinale Film Festival

MacDowell filmmakers have been busy in recent months, working as screenwriters, directors, and producers, and sometimes all three. Here's a running list of the films that screened at Sundance with the Fellows and their roles:

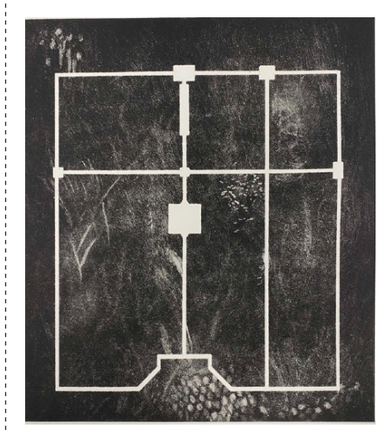
Experimental Shorts: ***Sunflower Siege Engine*** (pictured below), directed, written, and produced by Fellow **Sky Hopinka** (21); and ***Troy***, directed by Mike Donahue and written by **Jen Silverman** (12, 13, 22). Documentaries: ***The Stroll***, produced by Fellow **Matt Wolf** (10, 13); ***Kim's Video***, produced by **Deborah Smith** (10), Dale Smith, Francesco Galavotti, and Rebecca Tabasky; ***Food and Country***, produced by **Ruth Reichl** (7x 00-13), Paula P. Manzanedo, and Caroline Libresco; ***Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields***, directed by **Lana Wilson** (17); ***Last Things***, directed, written, and produced by **Deborah Stratman** (10, 14, 21) and worked on at MacDowell. Fiction Features: ***Eileen***, co-written and co-produced by **Ottessa Moshfegh** (16) and based on her novel of the same name; ***Passages,*** directed and co-written by **Ira Sachs** (01); ***Past Lives***, directed and written by **Celine Song** (16), which was also entered in the Berlinale as Song's debut film for its international premiere.

The SXSW 2023 Film and TV lineup included Fellow documentaries *You Were My First Boyfriend* from directors **Cecilia Aldarondo** (14, 18) and Sarah Enid Hagey where Aldarondo relives her tortured adolescence, wondering if she remembered it all wrong. There's also *The Arc of Oblivion* from director **Ian Cheney** (13) that illuminates the strange world of archives, record-keeping, and memory through a filmmaker's quixotic quest to build an ark in Maine. Closing out the documentaries is *Confessions of a Good Samaritan* directed by **Penny Lane** (16) and follows her decision to become a "Good Samaritan" by giving one of her kidneys to a stranger. It turns into a funny and moving personal quest to understand the nature of altruism. And in the animated shorts category, *Spring Roll Dream* is an entry from the UK directed by Mai Vu and written by screenwriter **Chloe White** (15) that follows a Vietnamese single mother who's successfully forged a life for herself and her son in America; but she is confronted with the past and culture she left behind and the question of where it belongs in her family's new life.

Visual arts news

Rehab El Sadek (20) was selected by Project Row Houses Round 54 Southern Survey Biennial guest curator Valerie Cassel Oliver as The Dina Alsowayel and Tony Chase Biennial Prize recipient. The body of works was part of a place-making series and was begun with research conducted in residence at MacDowell. *Penumbra* is constructed with everyday objects, light, and shadow. Through her conceptual art practice, El Sadek investigates concepts of immigration, nationalism, identity, and inclusion. Her work questions existing power structures and contemplates people of all social backgrounds, especially the marginalized. Rehab's art is focused on creating spaces she feels can be poetic acts and become tools to build community.

Phillip Van Keuren (78,09) was accepted to visit an artist residency at the American Academy in Rome. Van Keuren is an art professor and photographer, and in Rome will expand his photographic body of work.



Bahar Behbahani (17) is showing work as part of "Garden of Desire" (above) at the Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present through June 11, 2023 in Sharjah, UAE. She has also shown work

this winter at Trotter & Sholer in New York in an exhibition called "A Suitable Accomplishment," which was a collaboration with her mother Shamsy Behbahani, and was included in an essay anthology by Aliza Edelman called *Transnational Belonging and Female Agency in the Arts.*

Ann Seelbach (87) exhibited paintings in a solo show called "Elements Adrift" at Gallery North in Setauket, NY this winter. The paintings chosen are representative of Seelbach's themes around pollution and ecology, and was accompanied by a talk about marine ecology by Patricia Woodruff from the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Studies.

Jagdeep Raina (22) exhibited in his first solo show at Halsey McKay Gallery in East Hampton, NY this winter. Five of the pieces displayed were created at MacDowell.

Josh Dorman (19) showed "Idyll ~ Idol," a solo exhibit at Ryan Lee Gallery in New York City.

Tamar Ettun (14) released a new artist book, *Texts from Lilit: 31 cards to connect you to your shadow.* The book (pictured above) conjures the demon Lilit (Lillith), whose story traces back to ancient Sumerian, Akkadian, and Judaic mythology. Reaching from the dark side of the moon, via text messages, Lilit explores the insidious side of empathy, trauma-healing modalities, and astrology as storytelling.

Heidi Hahn's (19) second solo exhibition with Nathalie Karg Gallery, "Flex, Rot, and Sp(l)it" took place last fall.

Visual artist **Cecelia Feld**'s (95) photo *Richard Serra and Little Girl* was included in PhotoPlace Gallery's online exhibition "Portals."

Visual artist **Nina Katchadourian** (95) has a solo show at the Morgan Library, "Uncommon Denominator," running through May 28, 2023. Her work was also part of Catharine Clark Gallery's return to Paris Photo.

Susan Schwalb (74, 75, 89) showed art (above) in a number of group shows, including at the Carter Burden Gallery, NYC; Patrick Heide Contemporary Art in London; Jean-Louis Gourreau, France; Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) at Saint Louis University; and Flóris Rómer Museum of Art & History, Hungary.

Harriet Bart (90) exhibited her installation *Reckoning* at NewStudio Gallery in St. Paul, MN last fall.

Fran Shalom (16) exhibited in a solo show (above) called "Duck/Rabbit" at the Hunterdon Museum in Clinton, NJ in early winter.

Marc Ohrem-Leclef (18) showed work made at MacDowell in a solo exhibit called "Zameen Aasman Ka Farq—As far apart as the Earth is from the Sky" at the Breda Photo Festival in Breda, Netherlands this past fall. His work was also featured in "Parallel Lives: Photography, Identity, and Belonging" at the Center of Photography in Woodstock, NY.

Anne Gilman (12) had a solo show (above) at FiveMyles Gallery in Brooklyn.

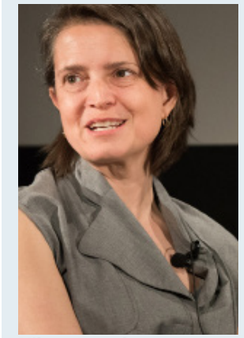
A debut monograph from painter **Marcelyn McNeil** (12), *Marcelyn McNeil: Works,* was published by Radius Books and includes text by Hesse McGraw, covering the past 10 years of her studio practice.

Rosalind Fox Solomon (02, 03) had a solo exhibition at Paris Photo 2022. It contains a selection from the original traveling exhibition prints of "Portraits in the time of AIDS," the full series of which has been acquired by National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Hong Hong (20) showed work from a new series of monumental, handmade paper-works that she created in collaboration with her family in a two-person exhibition with Johnathan Payne called "Keeping Score" at Tiger Strikes Asteroid in Los Angeles. Her work can currently be viewed in "Paper Is People: Decolonizing Global Paper Cultures" co-curated by **Tia Blassingame** (00, 04, 10) and Stephanie Sauer at MCBA Main Gallery in Minneapolis through August 12th.

Frank Webster (93, 98) showed work in the solo exhibit "No Man's Land: Visions of the Glaciers of Spitsbergen" (above) curated by Jason Clay Lewis at The Royal Society of American Art in Brooklyn last fall.

Valerie Hegarty (15) was awarded a 2022 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Individual Support Grant and a 2022 Colene Brown Art Prize. Her sculpture, *Faucet with Horse Head (The Covid Diaries Series)*, was acquired by the William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut and is currently on view in a permanent collection exhibition: "Encounters with the Collection: Celebrating Art by Women."



Hilary Sample

Katherine Jenkins

Parker Sutton

Tung-Hui Hu

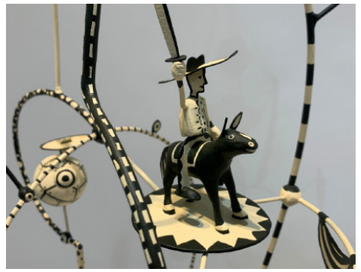
Robyn Schiff

Ester Partegàs

Elle Perez

7 Fellows Get Prestigious Rome Prizes

Architect **Hilary Sample** (06); landscape architects **Katherine Jenkins** (19) and **Parker Sutton** (19); poets **Tung-Hui Hu** (07, 16) and **Robyn Schiff** (21); visual artist **Ester Partegàs** (18); and photographer **Elle Perez** (22) have all been awarded 2022-2023 Rome Prizes by the American Academy in Rome. The seven are among 38 American and four Italian artists and scholars who won highly competitive fellowships. Rome Prize winners each receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board at the Academy's 11-acre campus in Rome from September to June. The eleven disciplines supported by the Academy include ancient studies, architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, medieval studies, modern Italian studies, music composition, Renaissance and early modern studies, and visual arts. Nationwide, the Rome Prize competition received 909 applications, representing 47 US states and territories and 19 different countries. Thirty-three Rome Prizes were awarded to 37 individuals (four prizes are collaborations), representing an acceptance rate of 3.6 percent. This group of Rome Prize winners is among the most diverse in the Academy's history. Approximately 46 percent of the winners identify as persons of color, representing a new high for this demographic. Twenty-four percent of the Rome Prize winners were born outside the United States. Ages of the incoming group range from 27 to 67, with an average age of 43.

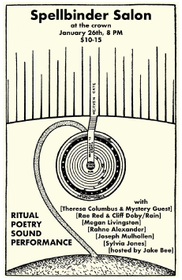


Tom Nussbaum (05, 06, 07) showed "Art & Objects," (pictured above) a retrospective at Metaphor Projects in Brooklyn, NY.

Ken Urban MacDowell Project Developed at MIT

The Conquered, the play **Ken Urban** (08, 09, 22) wrote at MacDowell in three sleepless days last summer, was developed and performed in the black box theater in MIT's Theater Arts building (pictured below) last December. Urban, a senior lecturer in music and theater arts, collaborated with theatre professor Jay Scheib on the piece, which featured technical and storytelling aspects. The play, inspired by advances in neurotechnology, is a harrowing look into the mind of a middle-aged woman whose recurring nightmares prompt her to begin seeing a psychiatrist. The play includes scenes of intense interpersonal struggle that have served as a hallmark of Urban's writing career to date. Last winter Urban also learned he had received a grant from the annual MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Fund to support the development of his new multimedia play *The Moderate* with director and designer **Jared Mezzocchi** (17, 20). Urban wrote revisions of the script at MacDowell last summer during a particularly fruitful stay.

Other Theatre and Interdisciplinary Art News



Rae Red (21) took part in a group show at Castle House fortress over the winter, acting as MC and and providing projections. Rae and Cliff Doby performed an excerpt and adaptation from *Queer. Futures. Past.* at The Crown in Baltimore in January.

Sheila Arnold (22) appeared as the featured storyteller at Moonshell Storytelling Festival, Mahoney State Park, NE; at Haunting in the Hills, KY; at the Cave Run Storytelling Festival in Morehead, KY; at St. Louis Storytelling Festival, St. Louis, MO; at Ojai Storytelling Festival, Ojai, CA; and at the Kentucky Storytelling Association at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY last fall. She also presented at workshops associated with the festivals and at Healing the Divides through Storytelling in Jonesborough, TN.

Bleu Beckford-Burrell (22) staged the Off-Broadway debut of her play *La Race* in November and December at the McGinn/Cazale Theater.

Narcissister (15, 23) performed live "spikes that bite" at the Margot Samel Gallery this winter; was selected for a 2023 Fellowship Residency at Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota; received a sculpture commission for an exhibition opening at The Wellcome Collection in London for fall of 2023; will have work included in "Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage" at Frist Art Museum in Nashville beginning in September; and will have a book published of their collage work (2007-2022) published by Eureka Press this year.

Mia Rovegno (16) and **Tahir Karmali** (16) presented *Elevator,* a new experimental work that appeared at the 2023 Under the Radar Festival at The Public Theater in New York.

Penny Arcade (14) was named the 2023 Ambassador to the Adelaide Fringe Festival in Australia. She brought episode #3 *Superstar Interrupted*, which is in continuation of her episodic musical memoir "The Art of Becoming." She displayed her 35-year practice of creating live improvisational theatre and performance to write a literary memoir which includes a 10-part podcast.

She also reports that *Longing Lasts Longer* (a meditation on gentrification and hypergentrification and a refutation of Nostalgia), which was co-created with longtime collaborator **Steve Zehentner** (14) at MacDowell, has been performed 207 times in 47 cities around the world, winning many awards in international festivals and is still touring.

Vanessa Anspaugh (13) premiered her latest performance work, *mourning after mornings*, at New York Live Arts in November.

EVENTS

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

Monadnock Region Supporters, their Guests, and Artists-in-Residence Fill Bond Hall to Raise Critical Program Operating Funds

Thanks to our supporters, regional friends, benefit committee, and invited guests for contributing to a spectacular return to Bond Hall, our first time hosting the New Hampshire Benefit in the historic room since the pandemic forced us out. With your help, we exceeded our goal, and raised **nearly $60,000** to benefit our program. Hosted by MacDowell Fellow and board member **Peter Cameron** (8x, 84-08), the evening featured a reading from **Joanna Rakoff** (03, 19) and a performance by **Rodrigo Martínez Torres** (19). It also offered many guests the first opportunity to meet new Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano. Our annual New Hampshire Benefit is held on the MacDowell grounds and brings together artists-in-residence, MacDowell supporters, and business leaders for an intimate community celebration of art and artists.

View a slideshow of images here!

New Hampshire Benefit host, MacDowell Fellow and board member Peter Cameron welcomes supporters, guests and artists-in-residence to Bond Hall.

CASSANDRA YERKES

MacDowell Downtown Returns!

March saw the return of MacDowell Downtown for its 20th season when multi-instrumentalist and composer **Nora Stanley** (23) took took a break from working at her MacDowell studio to play some of her saxophone etudes, improvise some music, and answer questions from the audience. Fellow artist-in-residence **Udi Perlman** (23) joined Stanley on flute for some improvisations. Stanley

Save These Dates!

SUNDAY, JULY 23RD

Medal Day - Peterborough, NH

Don't miss our free, outdoor public celebration of the 63rd Edward MacDowell Medalist Alanis Obomsawin! Considered one of Canada's most distinguished filmmakers, Obomsawin created 56 films. (*see story on page 3*) Consider becoming a volunteer or sponsor at our events.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

The National Benefit - NYC

Mark your calendar for MacDowell's largest fundraiser of the year, the National Benefit, to be held October 16, 2023 at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in NYC!

also played "Iris," a composition by jazz and fusion saxophone great Wayne Shorter who had died the night before. Stanley was at MacDowell to compose some arrangements of the late Joe Henderson's music for an upcoming jazz festival and continued work on a second album of original music. Since touring with Beth Orton last year, Stanley has focused on composing modern jazz integrated with improvisational structures and elements from the indie rock music she grew up with. "I'm trying to branch out in that realm, and it's one of the things I'll be focusing on while here. The attempt is to write composed music, some of it rigorously composed, and yet leave a lot of open space for improvisation."

In the second MacDowell Downtown of the season, journalist and podcast editor **Aaron Edwards** (23) shared samples of a new podcast he is creating that focuses on friendships and explores whether they might be the most central relationships in our lives. He presented his concept to a full house at Peterborough's Monadnock Center for History and Culture, and explained how he hoped his close study of friendships may lead to new understandings of intimacy. Edwards was in residence editing the pilot of his new podcast and crafting the narrative arc for its planned eight to 10 episodes. In addition to excerpts, he described his motivations and shared his vision for the program before answering audience questions. "There's nothing wrong or shameful about feeling that a friendship is the most meaningful source of love in your life," said Edwards. "I want people to come to see that as a valid feeling."

Please join us every first Friday of the month from March through November at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture for this free opportunity to get an insider's view of what's happening at MacDowell.

REMEMBERING

DAVID MACY

Presentation speaker Peter Sellars, literary consultant Eileen Ahearn, and Medalist Toni Morrison share a moment in Hillcrest prior to the 2016 Medal Day.

Eileen Ahearn, a Tribute

By Scott Manning

When Eileen Ahearn passed away at the age of 75 in January, many writers lost a great friend and champion. So did MacDowell.

Suffice it to say that without Eileen, we would not have enjoyed Toni Morrison's presence for our highest-attended Medal Day ever in 2016. We would also not be in possession of Beauford Delaney's portrait of **James Baldwin** (54, 58, 60), which graces the entrance to our library that bears his name.

Eileen began her career in book publishing as a typist at Random House in the early 1970s. After leaving the typing pool, she became secretary to Toni Morrison, who at the time was an editor at the company's flagship imprint. This relationship turned into a lifelong bond with Eileen acting as Morrison's close advisor and friend.

She also made a career in publishing by developing an expertise in contracts and rights. Many writers are indebted to her for ensuring that royalties were paid more accurately and fairly.

At the same time, Eileen's long friendship with famed writer and MacDowell Fellow Baldwin led to her taking over as administrator of his estate. Anyone interested in rights to Baldwin's work — from the producers of *If Beale Street Could Talk* to Jake Gyllenhaal — had to first encounter the formidable, yet always fair, Eileen.

It was obvious that my longtime friend and colleague Eileen would be MacDowell's crucial link to Morrison and the Baldwin family.

After introducing Eileen to former Executive Director Cheryl Young, the three of us worked for months to convince Morrison that a five-hour drive each way in a hired car would be a pleasant day trip. In the end, Eileen offered the key suggestion that we invite Morrison's great friend and collaborator Peter Sellars to speak at the ceremony. Knowing that he would be there, Morrison said yes.

Eileen's introduction to Gloria Karefa-Smart and the rest of the Baldwin family yielded their surprise donation of the inspiring Delaney portrait that greets Fellows whenever they enter our library.

Eileen was that rare person who shifted attention away from themselves so others could shine, and we are honored to shine a light on her as a key player in MacDowell's history.

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

Claude Jeanneau-Astrachan | Sculptor, painter, and French professor **Claude Jeanneau-Astrachan** died on October 7, 2022 in Gordes, France. She was 92. Born in Nice in 1930, Jeanneau-Astrachan studied design and painting at the Paris studio of Jean Lombard from 1953 to 1955. She studied at the Silvermine School of Design and then at the Kansas City Art Institute under the tutelage of sculptor Julius Schmidt, earning an M.F.A. in 1957, and a year of further study at Mexico City College in 1959. She was in residence in 1968. Her work has been shown in group and solo exhibitions in the U.S. and France. Jeanneau-Astrachan married the novelist Samuel Astrachan in 1960. She created the Wayne at Gordes program, which was a six-week intensive French language summer program for six to eight Wayne State students at the family's home in Southern France.

Alice Bach | Writer, scholar, and activist **Alice Bach** died on November 21, 2022 in Cleveland. She was 80. Bach grew up in Manhattan and in Princeton, NJ. After graduating from Barnard with degrees in French and literature, she worked as an editor at Random House before writing and publishing more than 20 volumes of children's and young adult work. Her novel *They'll Never Make a Movie Starring Me* was inspired by her boarding school experience. Her picture books include *The Smartest Bear and His Brother Oliver, The Most Delicious Camping Trip Ever,* and *Millicent the Magnificent*. *Waiting for Johnny Miracle* was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association. She was in residence in 1976 and 1977. She earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies in the 1980s, but continued to support herself through her writing. She became an assistant professor in religious studies at Stanford and at Case Western. In retirement as an emerita professor, Bach dedicated herself to raising awareness of Palestinian causes. According to *The New York Times*, on Facebook she identified herself as an "Irritant to the Dirty Rotten System."

Nancy Englander | Former MacDowell General Director Nancy Englander died in Los Angeles on February 24, 2023. She was 78. Englander received a B.A. from Tufts in 1965 and an M.S. from Columbia in 1969 before eventually becoming an associate director of development at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. When she was hired in 1977 as MacDowell's general director, a position that would be divided into executive and resident director roles, she was at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Upon taking the reins, Englander came to MacDowell during a period of dire financial hardship. When she left three-and-a-half years later to become the director of program planning and analysis at the J. Paul Getty Trust, she was credited with successfully overseeing MacDowell's first capital campaign. She left the Getty in to join Capital Group Companies to work on emerging markets. She also served on the Council Steering Committee of Human Rights Watch and the advisory board of the Brazil Foundation.

Paul La Farge | Fiction writer **Paul La Farge**, whose novels and short stories have been lauded for their artful ways of weaving fiction with historical figures, died of cancer on January 18, 2023 in Poughkeepsie, NY. He was 52. He earned a degree from Yale, did postgraduate work at Stanford, and taught at Wesleyan, Bennington, Bard, and Columbia University. He was in residence six times between 1999 and 2014. La Farge published five novels. *The Artist of the Missing*, *Haussmann, or the Distinction*, *The Facts of Winter*, *Luminous Airplanes*, and *The Night Ocean*. His writing has appeared in *The Village Voice*, *Harper's Magazine*, *McSweeney's*, *The Believer*, and *The New Yorker*. He won two California Book Awards and the Bard Fiction Prize. Paul told us that if there were a prize for getting lost in the woods between the New Jersey Studio and the fire pond, he would be a contender for it, too.

Paul's family and friends have created a fellowship in his name for a fiction writer at the beginning of their career. Click here to donate, and please note "La Farge" in the Tribute comment box.

Mary Stewart Hammond | Poet **Mary Stewart Hammond** died of lung cancer on December 1, 2022 at home in New York. She was 82 years old. Born in Richmond, VA, Hammond graduated from the Bryn Mawr School in 1958 and Goucher College in 1968. Though she held several other careers and was active in local and national politics, poetry was the art form dearest to her heart and where she did her most important work. Her work appeared widely in *The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Paris Review, The Yale Review*, and other distinguished journals, anthologies, and in her own two books, *Out of Canaan* and *Entering History* published by W.W. Norton. She was also a Master Class teacher of poetry and a private manuscript editor. In 1988, Hammond became one of the first of 20 women notable in their respective fields to be accepted in the Century Association.

Julia Reichert | **Julia Reichert**, the Oscar-winning co-director of *American Factory* and a longtime fixture of American documentary since the 1970s, died on December 1, 2022 after battling cancer. She was 76. Reichert, whose first film came out 50 years ago, brought progressive politics, women's rights, and working-class issues to the forefront of non-fiction cinema. She was in residence in 1994, 2001, and 2004, and is considered a trailblazer and passionate advocate for the documentary community. The subjects of her work ranged from activist women to autoworkers as explored in numerous Oscar-nominated films. Frustrated with the lack of distribution options for films by and about women, Reichert and her partner Jim Klein co-founded New Day Films, a distribution cooperative. For 28 years, she was also a professor at Wright State University, and was one of the founding members of the Indie Caucus, an action group that worked to keep independent documentaries on PBS.

James Primosch | Composer, producer, and pianist **James Primosch**, who composed liturgical music and performed jazz with leading artists and ensembles from around the world, died on April 26, 2021 from pancreatic cancer. He was 65. Primosch, who studied at Cleveland State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University, was in residence in 1988 and 2001. At the University of Pennsylvania, he nurtured aspiring composers for more than 30 years. He was the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, and The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded him its 2020 Virgil Thomson Award in Vocal Music. According to *The New York Times,* his works were "impressive, surprising, grandly romantic, and very accessible."

Kristine Robinson | Sculptor and visual artist **Kristine Robinson**, who made abstract sculptures and drawings with various processes and materials, died on July 14, 2022 in Haymarket, VA. She was 52. Robinson graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.F.A. in 1993, and went on to earn an M.F.A. in 1995 from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Immediately after college, Robinson moved to New York. She was in residence in 1999 and 2004. To support herself and her artwork, Robinson was an apparel and home textile designer in computer-aided design and her portfolio included many notable clients. Most recently, she held the position of master art teacher at the Nysmith School for the Gifted.

Cervin Robinson | Architectural photographer and writer **Cervin Robinson**, who was once referred to by *The New Criterion*'s J. Duncan Berry as "perhaps the most celebrated of any living architectural photographer," died on December 27, 2022 in Wakefield, RI. He was 94. Besides photography, Robinson loved cities, traveling, books, dogs, his family, and race walking. He was in residence in 1996 and 1998. After attending Exeter Academy and Harvard University, Robinson served in the Army before starting a career in architectural photography as assistant to Walker Evans and as a photographer for the Library of Congress. Robinson co-authored several books and contributed illustrations to many more. His work was shown at major museums and his work has been reviewed by, among other publications, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New Criterion*. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1971.

Gerald Stern | **Gerald Stern**, whose poetry was known for its lyricism and sensuality, and the way it wedded the physical world to the greater cosmos, died on October 28, 2022 in New York. He was 97. Stern, who identified strongly with nature and animals and was a longtime political activist, wrote more than a dozen books. He regarded "The One Thing in Life," from the 1977 collection *Lucky Life*, as the poem that best defined him. He was in residence in 2011. He finally found his voice as a poet as he approached age 40, and was past 50 before he won any major awards, but was cited often later in life. His accolades include a 1998 National Book Award, being a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1991, being New Jersey's first Poet Laureate, receiving the Ruth Lilly Prize and the Wallace Stevens Award. In 2013, the Library of Congress gave him the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for *Early Collected Poems*.

WHY MACDOWELL NOW?

DeSantis' Dearth of Understanding of America's Past Fails Everyone in the Present

By Nell Painter

Here we are again, face to face with powerful attempts to push Black Americans—our experiences, our struggles, and our thoughts—out of the American consciousness. Let me borrow the words of a recent webinar from the African American Policy Forum featuring thinkers who have been excised from the College Board's Black Studies AP course to supply a definition: "When Racial Reckoning and Anti-Wokeness Collide." Professor Colette Gaiter listed these deleted thinkers (pictured at right) in an Instagram post illustrating the College Board's move.

These are thinkers who link thought to society, theory to praxis. They show the complexity and interrelatedness of identities and have a name for it: intersectionality. They envision a more just society through ideals exemplified by many artists and art organizations, including the nearly 100 MacDowell artists who are featured in our three "Conversation About Social Justice" web pages:

Conversation About Social Justice:

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Much of the work featured in those pages, such as that from **Mark Thomas Gibson** (17), **Annette Lawrence** (18), **Elise Engler** (03, 17), **Kristine Aono** (90), **Kevin Norton** (02), and many others, refer directly to the time we are living through now. This MacDowell Fellows' social justice art project grew from a need to speak out after a Minneapolis police officer murdered George Floyd, but that historical moment might have come at practically any point in U.S. history. Sadly and appallingly familiar, we're mired in a cycle of anti-Black police brutality—anguish—anger—protest—White backlash. Decade after decade, police-murder of Black people. Decade after decade, White backlash against protest—a cycle documented in the books many leaders wish to expunge from our children's education.

This time the White backlash comes from Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in a campaign against Black Studies, dismissing the discipline as "significantly lack[ing] educational value," as though it were something that just came up. A particular target this time, objected to by name, was the Black Panther Party. The objection didn't refer to the heroes of Wakanda.

Let me take you back to the 20th century, back to the 1960s, when protest gave birth to Black Studies. I remember the Black Panther Party, just as I remember when Black Studies emerged nationally in the late 1960s, from a protest movement of students who sometimes carried guns. The most widely known Black gun-bearers of the 1960s belonged to the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in my own hometown of Oakland. Half a century after the FBI's COINTELPRO and internecine strife killed them off, the Panthers

ACCRA SHEPP

are still eliciting the Florida governor's anxiety and demagoguery. It's worth asking about the Panthers' dangerous ideas. What were they? What did the Panthers stand for? They issued this Ten-Point Program in 1966:

1. We Want Freedom. We Want Power to Determine the Destiny of Our Black Community.

2. We Want Full Employment for Our People.

3. We Want An End to the Robbery By the Capitalists of Our Black Community.

4. We Want Decent Housing Fit For The Shelter of Human Beings.

5. We Want Education for Our People That Exposes The True Nature Of This Decadent American Society. We Want Education That Teaches Us Our True History And Our Role in the Present-Day Society.

6. We Want All Black Men To Be Exempt From Military Service.

7. We Want An Immediate End to Police Brutality and the Murder of Black People.

8. We Want Freedom For All Black Men Held in Federal, State, County and City Prisons and Jails.

9. We Want All Black People When Brought to Trial To Be Tried In Court By A Jury Of Their Peer Group Or People From Their Black Communities, As Defined By the Constitution of the United States.

10. We Want Land, Bread, Housing, Education, Clothing, Justice And Peace.

These points elicited countless lively and curiosity-inducing discussions in the history classes I taught at American universities in my career. And for MacDowell artists and perhaps anyone interested in how art reflects and engages with culture and contemporary events, one of the startling legacies of the Black Panthers exists in their art. Emory Douglas, the BPP Minister of Culture, created an oeuvre of engaged art that belongs squarely in American art history. As I wrote in *The New Yorker* on June 18, 2020:

Right now, the art-history canon presents the nineteen-sixties as Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, in images that depict an America without racial conflict and that celebrate consumer capitalism. Angry art inhabits a peculiar category of the art of protest, one peripheral to the history of American art. Let us recuperate the art that testifies to a long-standing, uncompromising opposition to police brutality. This furious art belongs not only to anti-racist heritage but also in the center of American art.

Point 7 condemns police brutality, a condemnation still needing to be heard. Point 5 envisions an activist Black Studies. In Oakland, Panthers demanded Black Studies in 1966. At San Francisco State University two years later, the Black Student Union and the Third World Liberation Front staged the strike that created the school's Black Studies department, and students in institutions around the U.S. followed suit.

If you want to read about and/or support the "Call to the College Board to Restore the Integrity of the AP African American Studies Course" you can go to https://bit.ly/APAAS.

And if recent history is a guide, the assault on critical and social justice thinking won't end with Black Studies. I fear other ethnic studies and Women's and Gender Studies are next in line for attack.

The backlash is here, but the struggle to be heard and seen will also continue. Art will play its part in this process, for art's reach is not so easily censored. MacDowell artists, like all artists, remain part of this story.

Nell Painter (16, 19, 21) is Madam Chairman of the MacDowell Board, Fellow, and a best-selling author.

DWIGHT CARTER

Find all **Why MacDowell NOW?** essays here

MacDowell is grateful for the generous support of the following organizations:

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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."

Applications are available on our website at **www.macdowell.org.**

Madam Chairman: Nell Painter
President: Christine Fisher
Executive Director: Chiwoniso Kaitano
Resident Director: David Macy

New Staff/New Board Members

NEW STAFF

Connor Buckley
financial and benefits administrator

DAN MILLBAUER

Connor Buckley began working as the financial and benefits administrator at MacDowell in 2023 after seven years of working in non-profit arts administration in Boston. Connor is a graduate of Berklee College of Music where he studied trumpet and computer music. More recently, he completed a master's in library and information science and has become passionate about the intersection between the arts and information management. His intermittent artistic practice is centered around performing jazz and classical music as well as composing and writing lyrics for musical theater.

Julie Hamel
scheduling/fellows engagement manager

CONNIE LOWELL

Julie Hamel joined MacDowell in early 2023 as the scheduling and fellows engagement manager, responsible for creating the residency calendar, managing the wait list, and overseeing the grants and stipends program. She also works as liaison to connect fellows with the Peterborough community. She holds an M.F.A. in visual arts from Lesley University and a B.F.A. in photography from the University of New Hampshire. In addition to her artistic practice as a multidisciplinary maker working with the photographic medium, she can be found getting lost in nature, falling while roller skating, sewing life-sized cartoon characters, or living in the darkroom.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dahlia Elsayed
Artist, writer, educator

Dahlia Elsayed is an artist and writer who makes text and image based work that connects internal and external experiences of place in narrative maps and created landscapes. Her work has been exhibited widely, including the 12th Cairo Biennale, Robert Miller Gallery, BravinLee Programs, and The New Jersey State Museum, and is in the public collections of the The Newark Museum, The Zimmerli Museum, Johnson & Johnson Corporation, and U.S. Department of State, amongst others. She earned her M.F.A. at Columbia University and is associate professor of fine arts at CUNY, LaGuardia Community College.

Elliott Holt
Author

Elliott Holt is the author of the novel *You Are One of Them*, a New York Times Editors' Choice and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard award for a first book. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in publications including *The New York Times, Slate, Time, Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Guernica*, and she has won a Pushcart Prize as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Yaddo, and MacDowell. Holt has worked as a copywriter and brand strategist for international advertising agencies in Moscow, London, Paris, and New York; as a creative writing professor at American University and NYU; and as an editor at *One Story*. She is deputy editor of *The Yale Review*.

Susie Hackler
Nonprofit executive

Susie Hackler is associate director of the Nature Conservancy's Global Wealth Markets Team--created to strengthen TNC's philanthropic pipeline to support TNC's 2030 goals focused on climate change and biodiversity loss. Susie has held leadership roles in New Hampshire for the last 15 years including leading NH's $45 million Future of Nature Capital and Endowment Campaign. Susie holds a B.A. in psychology from Harvard University and McGill University, an M.P.H. from Yale University, and a J.D. from Vermont Law School. Susie resides in her hometown of Peterborough, NH in a round brick house with her ultra-fabulous young twin daughters and husband, Jason Reimers.

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

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

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