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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In Times of Social Discord Art and Artists Will Always Endure



"Art is our future. It is our door to our past and our window to our future. Through art, we learn to dream, to challenge, and to tolerate." -- Nikki Giovanni, poet, social critic, and civil rights advocate

When I read the quote above recently after learning of Nikki Giovanni's passing, I was reminded of art's overwhelming staying power and boundless importance and how today, more than ever, we would do well to remind ourselves of its persistence.

We've been here before.

In 2007, coinciding with MacDowell's centennial, former MacDowell Chairman Robin MacNeil delivered a speech at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center to attendees of that year's Americans for the Arts convention. In a presentation titled "Out of the Disenlightenment"—at a time when the arts and artists were under attack, MacNeil made the point that artist residencies offer a "heat shield" for creators needing "private communication

with the self" so they could find peace in a chaotic world to continue the important work of creating art.

At the time, MacNeil—who died in April and served MacDowell from 1993 to 2010—was addressing the duress creative people faced from ever-increasing attempts at censorship experienced over the previous decade. Today, 17 years on, the arts—if not culture itself—are in an arguably more fraught position. Creative people, public arts education and arts organizations face an uncertain future. Yet, despite the uncertainties of that future, we know that art endures.

It endures because it is made by people who take up the brush, write a story, or move across the floor simply because they must. The desire or need to interpret the human experience—whether reflecting on the past, recording the present, or imagining a possible future—is elemental, existing within the person. It is an unstoppable human trait. And, as long as artist residency programs exist, our artists will have sanctuaries in which to work unreservedly, unjudged, in environments created to nurture what MacNeil calls a "small seed planted in a soil of lonely confidence." A phrase I imagine Giovanni might have appreciated.

At MacDowell, we tend to creators who arrive from all continents, and we cultivate an inspiring environment for them. From our housekeepers to cooks, from marketing to administration, and from our board of directors to everyone in between, our artists are the number one priority. That covenant is the guiding principle in our ability to provide our Fellows a place of solitude, positive energy, cross-disciplinary exchange, and restoration of spirit. We do this so that even in a world where creativity is under threat from intolerance, the smallest seed can grow to produce the most abundant and finest fruit.

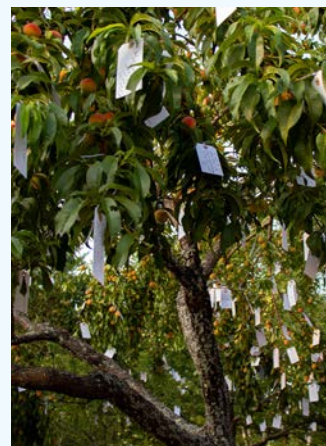
Great art and its makers will endure as they always have. Let's work to make sure that happens because of society's efforts rather than despite them.

In friendship,

Chiwoniso Kaitano

Chiwoniso Kaitano
Executive Director

An appreciation of Robin MacNeil can be found on page 25.



On the Cover

On the Cover: During Medal Day, MacDowell was honored by hosting two Yoko Ono Wish Trees in its small orchard. Visitors were encouraged to write their wishes on tags and tie them to two fruit trees during the day's celebrations after the 64th Edward MacDowell Medal was awarded to Ono in absentia. See more images and read our story starting on page 19.

Photo by Cassandra Yerkes

NEWS

Pulitzer Prize to Eight-Time Fellow Jayne Anne Phillips for Night Watch



ELENA SIEBERT

Congratulations to author **Jayne Anne Phillips** (8x 93-18, left) for winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction this spring for her novel *Night Watch*. The Pulitzer committee called it a "beautifully rendered novel set in West Virginia's Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in the aftermath of the Civil War where a severely wounded Union veteran, a 12-year-old girl and her mother, long abused by a Confederate soldier, struggle to heal." The book was also longlisted for the National Book Award and was a *New Yorker* best book of the year.

Poet **Robyn Schiff** (21, right) was nominated for the Pulitzer in Poetry for *Information Desk: An Epic*. It's a book-length poem that chronicles the oddities,

indignities, and wonders of working at a museum, and was called "a vivid compendium of musings on the nature of art and its creation." The book did, however, win the Four Quartets Prize from the T. S. Eliot Foundation and the Poetry Society of America.



Mellon Foundation Awards MacDowell a \$600,000 Grant

The Mellon Foundation has awarded a \$600,000 grant to MacDowell. Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities, will distribute the non-restricted grant to MacDowell over a period of two years to be used to ensure our program benefits the widest range of creative artists possible. It is our first grant from the Mellon Foundation.

"This generous grant from the Mellon Foundation is crucial to our ability to continue to offer uninterrupted time and private studio space to artists," said MacDowell Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano. "It is especially gratifying that it comes from an organization that sees common purpose with us at this critically important time. Mellon's generosity and passion for equity in the arts aligns with our own efforts to ensure future cohorts of Fellows continue to re-

fect our vision and our commitment to artists from all backgrounds and from all regions of the world."

The Mellon Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. MacDowell is honored to share in this pursuit of enriching our world through art by providing a safe and inspiring place for art to be made.

More than a century in the making, the MacDowell residency offers artists a balance of community, camaraderie, solitude, and dedicated work time. Here, artists dive deeper into and rediscover their practices, find inspiration in their cross-disciplinary exchanges with other Fellows, and thrive creatively in our 450

wooded acres. MacDowell provides a private studio, three nourishing meals a day, and a cohort of other talented artists to share ideas and build community, so that Fellows may prioritize the freedom to think deeply, to recharge, and to create.

MacDowell, which has provided more than 16,000 residencies to artists working in all disciplines, was established by composer Edward MacDowell and pianist Marian MacDowell, his wife, in 1907. When Edward died in 1908, Marian worked tirelessly to ensure artists, "regardless of social station," would find a sanctuary in Peterborough, NH, with the time and space to do their best work for the betterment of society. Since then, MacDowell has become a haven of creativity and strives to **make its residency program accessible and possible for all** artists.

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



Tony Awards Go to Three Fellows

Three MacDowell Fellow playwrights won 2024 Tony Awards: **David Adjimi** (4x 06-14) won the Best Play honor for *Stereophonic*, his drama set inside a California recording studio. The action follows a fictional rock band in the mid-1970s as they bicker, get high between takes, make mistakes, and nail the writing and recording of their post-stardom sophomore album. According to *The New York Theatre Guide's* review, the pressure is on for the up-and-comers and "the bleary-eyed bandmates, high on cocaine, double down as the recording timeline stretches from months to a year. The round-the-clock recording is a relationship wrecker, especially for the two couples in the band. Things take a turn for the worse when one of them assumes control as the producer, obsessing over tracks and pushing his bandmates to the brink. *Stereophonic* offers a hard look at the price of making art."

Two Tonys were awarded **Shaina Taub** (12), Best Musical and Best Book, for her musical *Suffs*, which takes audiences through the numerous triumphs and hardships of the American Suffragette movement in the early 1900s leading up to the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Finally, **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins** (3x 12-16) won the Best Revival Tony for *Appropriate*, his darkly comic American family drama. Sarah Paulsen, playing the eldest daughter of the recently deceased patriarch, won the Best Actress Tony and it received a Best Lighting Design Tony as well.

Guggenheims Awarded to 13 Fellows

Congratulations to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 2024 Fellows, which include 13 MacDowell Fellows. The Guggenheims are an annual award made across ten different disciplines. In total, 188 individuals were chosen from a rigorous application and peer review process of almost 3,000 applicants. Successful applicants were chosen on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise. Fellow winners include:

DRAMA & PERFORMANCE ART

Joshua Harmon (11, 16)

FICTION

Laird Hunt (04, 22)

Kirstin Valdez Quade (3x 11-21)

FILM/VIDEO

Lilli Carré (23)

Juan Pablo González (24)

Baba Hillman (24)

FINE ARTS

Bang Geul Han (09)

Lorraine O'Grady (95)

Carrie Schneider (24)

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Julia Wolfe (89)

Wang Xi (11)

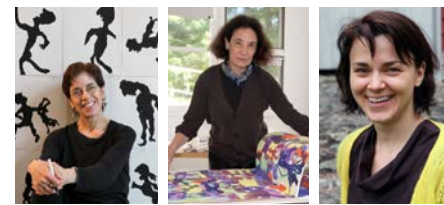
POETRY

Robyn Schiff (21)

Safiya Sinclair (22)



Images top and at left are from *Elana Herzog; Ripped Tangled and Frayed*, at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, a survey exhibition that included many works not seen in more than 25 years as well as more recent work.



Elana Herzog's (18, 22) survey exhibition (above and right), *Elana Herzog; Ripped Tangled and Frayed*, at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, included several pieces from the 1990s that had not been exhibited for more than 25 years, as well as more recent work. In conjunction with the show, she created *Holding; Ripped Tangled and Frayed*, a suite of one-of-a-kind handmade-paper artworks in collaboration with poet Brenda Coultas, and with the help of master papermaker Mina Takahashi. Three of these were included in the exhibit. The exhibition was accompanied by a catalogue that is available through the Arts Center.

Judy Fox (5x 99-06) received the 2022 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Art and Letters. Fox also showed *Harvest* at Nancy Hoffman Gallery featuring painted terracotta sculptures (below) created over the past three years. "It is a display of produce dynamic in form and palette, a veritable organic feast."



The exhibition's subtitle, "Even Better Than the Real Thing," acknowledges that artificial intelligence (AI) is complicating our understanding of what is real, and rhetoric around gender and authenticity is being used politically and legally to perpetuate transphobia and restrict bodily autonomy. These developments are part of a long history of deeming people of marginalized race, gender, and ability as subhuman—less than real. In making this exhibition, Whitney curators committed to amplifying the voices of artists who are confronting these legacies, and to providing a space where difficult ideas can be engaged and considered.

The MacDowell Fellows taking part include **Torkwase Dyson** (16), **JJJJJerome Ellis** (19, 22) as part of the collective *People Who Stutter Create*, **Harmony Hammond** (79, 81, 17), **Christopher Harris** (18), and **Sharon Hayes** (99).

MacDowell Awards 147 Esteemed, Fall-Winter Fellowships to Artists Working Across Disciplines

MacDowell has awarded 147 Fellowships to artists working in multiple disciplines from 27 states and 11 countries for the fall-winter season. These artists will arrive at MacDowell's historic campus from September of 2024 through February of 2025, for an average stay of four weeks, traveling from locations such as Kenya, Macedonia, Uganda, Greece, and Australia, and U.S. states like Kentucky, Washington, and Mississippi. The group was awarded Fellowships based on a work sample judged by experts in each of seven disciplines, reviewing 2,274 applications.



[Read More](#)

Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants Go to Eight Fellows

For more than three decades, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has supported working visual artists internationally. Established in 1985 through the generosity of Lee Krasner, one of the foremost abstract expressionist painters of the 20th century, the Foundation is a leader in providing resources to emerging and established artists. To date, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has awarded more than 5,100 grants to professional artists and organizations in 80 countries, for a total of more than \$90 million. In July, the foundation awarded a total \$3 million to 97 artists and nonprofit organizations (among them MacDowell) for its 2023–2024 grant cycle. Visual arts Fellows include **Alice Attie** (7x 01-17), **Melissa Meyer** (12), **Lorna Ritz** (72, 76), **Paolo minich** (23), **Anne Minich** (3x 84-89), **Jill Baroff** (88, 90), **Alex Callender** (22), and **Darina Karpov** (11).

Five Artists Help Fill Out Whitney Biennial Field

The 81st edition of the Whitney Biennial—the longest-running survey of contemporary art in the United States—selected five MacDowell Fellows to be featured among its 71 artists and collectives grappling with many of today's most pressing is-

Venice Biennale 2024 Includes Four Fellows

The Venice Biennale, one of the world's most important recurring art exhibitions, includes three MacDowell Fellows among the wide field of 331 artists and collectives participating in this year's edition set to run to November 24. Those include **Kay WalkingStick** (70, 71), **Liz Collins** (18), **Barbara Hammer** (87) with the *Disobedience Archive*, and **Kang Seung Lee** (22).



Blane De St. Croix's High Peaks Himachal Snow Mountain

Fellows Featured in Solo Exhibitions

Blane De St. Croix (3x 82-13) had a solo exhibition, "Blane De St. Croix: Horizon," at NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery this winter. The exhibition coincided with COP28, and is the result of his collaboration with NYUAD faculty in his rigorous study of the UAE's natural environment as part of a residency at The NYUAD Art Gallery in the lead-up to COP28 and the Year of Sustainability.

Center Street showed a new suite of four etchings (below) by **Anna Schuleit Haber** (5x 00-15). Master printer and publisher James Stroud invited Haber to pursue a print project after seeing a series of drawings she was working on over the course of the past few years. Four motifs chosen from a larger group were newly drawn and etched into copper plates.



Emily Noelle Lambert (14) exhibited "Emily Noelle Lambert: Less Like a March, More Like a Polka" (gallery view above) at Greenfield Community College, MA. She also participated in two group shows: "The Mermaid in The Hospital," curated by Maeve D'Arcy, at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts; and "Asters and Goldenrod," curated by Hilary Schaffner and Tessa O'Brien, at Alice Gauvin Gallery in New York.

Rosalind Fox Solomon (02, 03) showed photographs at Galerie Julian Sander. The focus of the compilation was on curious images (below) that challenge and compel a second look.



Cristobal Cea (16, 23) had a solo exhibition, "No Monsters, No Paradise," at the Boston Center for the Arts, September through December. **MAM**

Swarthmore's List Gallery presented **Tabitha Arnold's** (23) "Workshop of the World," the first major solo exhibition of her works, many of which were made at MacDowell. **MAM**

Joyce Kozloff (99) showed work in her solo exhibition, "Joyce Kozloff: Collateral Damage," at DC Moore Gallery. The show featured a new series of paintings alongside recent and earlier works about war, centering her continual innovation and expansion of the category of political art.

Marc Ohrem-Leclef (18) opened the first exhibition of "Ulisse," curated by Allen Frame at Deutsches Haus at NYU. In "Ulisse," Ohrem-Leclef worked with found letters and photographs, vernacular images and original photographs, to explore themes of belonging and memory through three seemingly unconnected histories of migrations dating back to the 1940s.

More Solo Exhibitions and Visual Arts News

Nancy Cohen (3x 81-23), "The State We're In" at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts.

Anne Seelbach sold three of her works-on-paper to the permanent collection of the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook, NY.

Robin Frohardt (16, 23), "The Plastic Bag Store" opened at MASS MoCA.

Clarity Haynes (19), "Clarity Haynes: Portals" at New Discretions in New York.

Sarah Tortora (14), "Meridian," in New York at Ulterior.

Pat Adams (68, 72), "Pat Adams: Works from the 1950s and '60s" at Alexandre Gallery in New York.



Beverly Acha (19), "Nothing Static," at Deanna Evans Projects in New York. Acha's paintings in the show explore imagery related to movement and time, including *landscape is a kind of feeling*, (above) an oil on canvas.

Tom Judd (01) podcast, "Being An Artist," produced by Radio Kismet. The first interview was with Rosanne Cash.



Catherine Cullen (90), *The World Which Is Made Of Our Love*, at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanic Garden on Staten Island. (*Giantess Awakening* above)

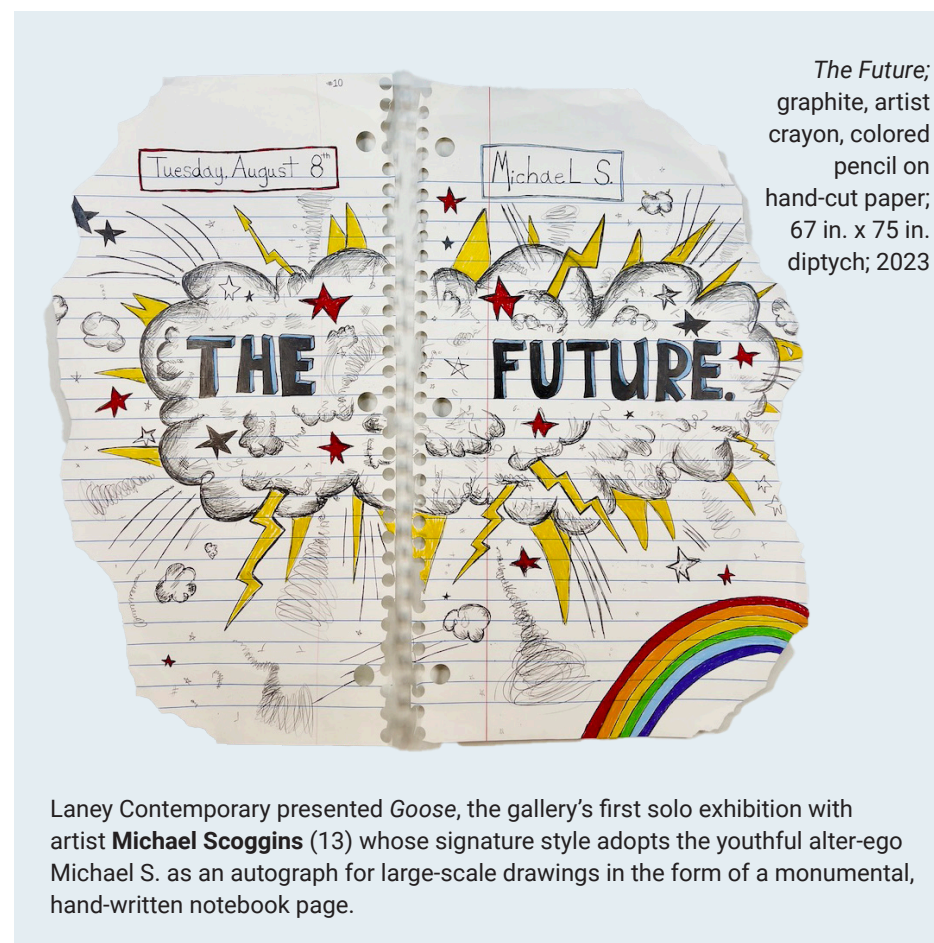
Alyson Shotz (22) "Midwinter Light" at Guesthouse in Jackson Hole, WY. She showed cyanotypes made at MacDowell. **#MAM**

June Edmonds (23) "Meditations on African Resilience," at Luis De Jesus Gallery. She also had works acquired by The Crocker Museum and The Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld Museum.

Frank WANG Yefeng (23), "The House of the Solitary" at Smack Mellon.

Lili Chin (20) lectured at the RISD Museum on sculpture.

Lisa Corinne Davis (17), "You Are Here?" at the Miles McEnery Gallery, and "Conclusive Calculations" at the Pamela Salisbury Gallery (example below). Her work *Reticulated Tale* was featured on a NYC bus shelter, and Penguin/Random House commissioned a painting for their lobby at 1745 Broadway, NY.



The Future; graphite, artist crayon, colored pencil on hand-cut paper; 67 in. x 75 in. diptych; 2023

Laney Contemporary presented *Goose*, the gallery's first solo exhibition with artist **Michael Scoggins** (13) whose signature style adopts the youthful alter-ego Michael S. as an autograph for large-scale drawings in the form of a monumental, hand-written notebook page.

Valerie Hegarty (15) participated in several groups shows: "GLOW" at BravinLee Programs, where the curator Karin Bravin asked each artist to create their own interpretation of a lamp. Her submission, *Drinking Dreams* (28 in. x 40 in. x 12 in.; 2023; at right), uses wire, paper, glue, foam clay, acrylics, glitter, costume jewelry, and a light fixture. Her sculpture *Shell Venus* was on view at The Bunker Art Space in West Palm Beach, FL; *Ophelia Rising* was one of several of her sculptures in "Long Dream," a three-person show curated by Jeane Cohen at Moss Galleries in Portland, ME; and she had several works, including *Ghost of History*, in "Momento" at Galerie Lucida in Red Bank, NJ.

Awards and Other Accolades

Deborah Taffa was awarded an NEA fellowship.

Stanya Kahn (21) and **Liz Collins** (18) received the Anonymous Was a Woman award this year.

Aleksandra Vrebalov Received the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for 2024.

Keith Fitch (98, 01) won the Ellis-Beauregard Foundation's Composer Award.

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea selected **Kang Seung Lee** (22) as one of four finalists for the 2023 edition of Korea Artist Prize.

Three Chosen for Joan Mitchell Fellowships

Fellows **Mala Iqbal**, **Jayoung Yoon** and **Raheleh Filsoofi** are 2023 recipients of the Joan Mitchell Fellowship, awarded to 15 artists from across the United States. The Joan Mitchell Fellows will each receive \$60,000 in unrestricted funds, distributed over five years alongside flexible professional development and convenings that facilitate community building and peer learning.



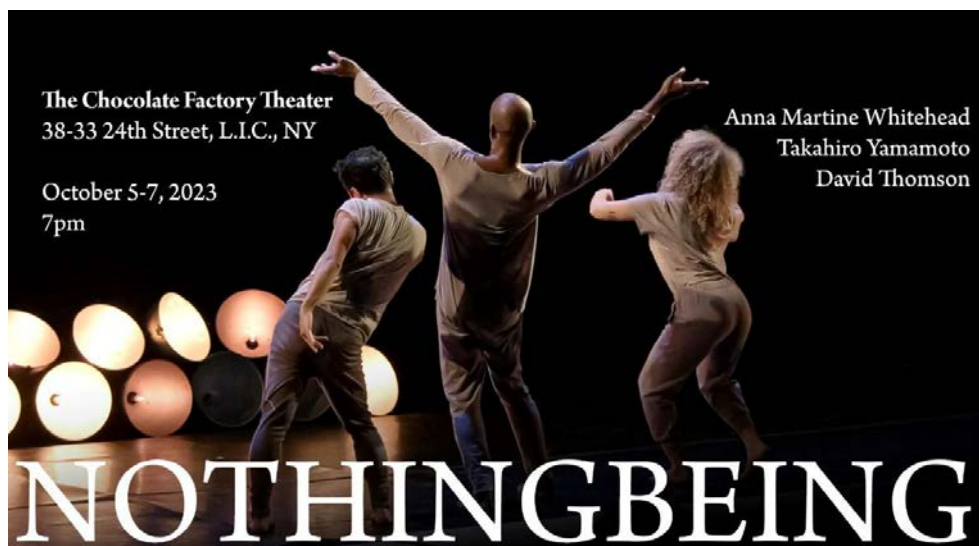
Theatre and Interdisciplinary News

NOTHINGBEING Collaboration Yields Performance and Book

Takahiro Yamamoto's (18) *NOTHINGBEING*, performed last October at the Chocolate Factory Theater in Queens, NY is a project that investigates ways to embody the presence of nothingness and "being," addressing these notions from multiple modalities such as moments of highly physical movement, a communal meditation, and internal activation of sensory memories. Yamamoto developed the performance with main collaborators Samita Sinha, Fellow **David Thomson** (14), and Anna Martine Whitehead. It asks how can we allow ourselves to shed our protective layers to feel our core existence? How could we unlearn together? What does the presence of nothingness and "being" feel like? The performances also yielded a book with the same title that features a collection of essays contributed by the collaborators.

Meredith Monk Debuts Latest at Park Avenue Armory

Meredith Monk (6x 87-07) performed the premiere of her work *Indra's Net* at Park Avenue Armory in NYC this fall. *Indra's Net* is an interdisciplinary evening-length work centered on interdependence, and the culmination of Monk's critically acclaimed trilogy exploring our relationship with the natural world. "For many years I have been interested in creating work that can serve as an antidote to the fragmentation, disconnection, and uncertainty of contemporary life," Monk said.



Chinazo Rena Anakwe's (22) Lincoln Center project, *Lifting the Ground Up [iter.02]*, was presented as part of the Social Sculpture Project cohort, of which she's currently a member, under the direction/curation of artists **Mimi Lien** (12) and Itohan Edoloyi. The first iteration of this piece was performed at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church as part of a group show, "Revision Suite," commissioned by Abrons Arts Center. The work is a durational, two-part piece that was closed spring 2024 with a two-day activation, as it follows the life cycle of plants. #MAM

Nahanni Rous (23) launched a new podcast "Remembering Vilna: the Jerusalem of Lithuania," at the National Library of Lithuania in September and in NYC in November. It is the third season of *Those Who Were There: Voices from the Holocaust*, a podcast from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. This latest 10-episode season of the podcast, which is produced in partnership with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, brings to life the story of the destruction of Vilna's vibrant Jewish community through recorded survivor testimonies and Herman Kruk's extensive diaries. #MAM

More Dramatic and Interdisciplinary News

Kareem Fahmy (23) was featured on the theatre podcast *Kunafa & Shay* in January talking about his work. *Kunafa & Shay* discusses and analyzes contemporary and historical Middle Eastern and North Africa, or MENA, theatre from across the region.

Libby Heily (23) presented four performances of her MacDowell-developed improvised play beginning in January. #MAM

Benji Hart (20) premiered his movement and spoken word performance *World After This One!* in March across three different weekends at three separate Chicago venues.



Jen Silverman's (3x 12-22) play *Spain* had its world premiere at Second Stage in New York.

Francisco Mendoza (21) joined with three other artists to co-found the Immigrant Theatermakers Advocates initiative, which seeks to create a more welcoming theater industry for immigrant artists.

Mona Mansour (18) won a 2023 Steinberg Playwright Award.

Carmen Pelaez (23) had a reading of her play *The Cuban Vote* at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C.

Sichong Xie's (22) #MAM work was included in the exhibition *Land of Milk & Honey*, at the Mexicali Biennial.

UCI's Beall Center for Art + Technology presented **Katherine Behar's** (13, 17) solo exhibition, "Katherine Behar: Ack! Knowledge! Work!" through April. During

her 2017 MacDowell residency, Behar conceived the seeds of what would become "Anonymous Autonomous," the centerpiece installation in this show which has been almost seven years in development. #MAM

Donna Oblongata's (21) #MAM work, *EFI*, an immersive, outdoor musical, was workshopped in Hanover, NH.

Rae Red (21) took her *Future's Future* (below) on a four-city tour through



Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Charlottesville. *Future's Future* and Rae were included in the Janet and Walter Sondheim Art Prize 2023 Semifinalist Exhibition. **Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann** (23) was also in the exhibit.

Leslie Cuyjet's (20, 21) play *For All Your Life* showed at the Chocolate Factory in April.

Ken Urban's play *The Conquered* won the 2024 Blue Ink Award. #MAM

Alex Romania's (22) "Face Eaters" was performed at the Chocolate Factory. #MAM

Lauren Petty (3x 07-22) and **Shaun Irons'** (3x 07-22) multidisciplinary, live cine-performance *All Over Everywhere* (pictured below) opened at HERE in New York in April. The show was started and developed at MacDowell, where many of the show's images of nature were shot or recorded. #MAM



Literary News



Safiya Sinclair Wins National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography

Congratulations to poet **Safiya Sinclair** (22, above), whose book *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir* won the 2023 National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. Speaking for the judges panel, committee member Jane Ciabattari said the book was “intimately crafted...unforgettable and a shining example of why poets should write prose. The Eden of Sinclair’s Jamaican childhood is irrevocably altered under her father’s strict Rastafarian upbringing, which first constrains, and then

threatens, her life. Discovering the power of her own voice sets her free.”

Other Fellow finalists for the prize in other categories included **Rachel Shteir** (90, 92) in biography for *Betty Friedan: Magnificent Disruptor*; **Daniel Mason** (07) for his novel *North Woods*; **Jeff Sharlet** (6x 05-21) for his nonfiction book *The Undertow: Scenes from a Slow Civil War*; **Dina Nayeri** (14) for her nonfiction book *Who Gets Believed? When the Truth Isn’t Enough*; and **Robyn Schiff** (21) for her book-length poem *Information Desk*.

Dara Mathis Wins Major Journalism Prize

Congratulations to **Dara Mathis** (24, right) on receiving an American Mosaic Journalism Prize for her powerful coverage of Black freedom movements, identity and parenthood, including her 2023 *Atlantic* article, “A Blueprint for Black Liberation,” which draws from her fascinating personal history growing up in the Black liberation movement as part of a radical Black nationalist commune. The prize is awarded by the Heising-Simons Foundation for excellence in long-form, narrative reporting on stories about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups



in the present American landscape, and aims to recognize and support freelance journalists with an unrestricted cash award of \$100,000 – the largest dollar amount given annually for a journalism prize in the U.S.

Above the Salt Gets the People Magazine Treatment

Katherine Vaz’s (06) new book, *Above the Salt*, was selected by *PEOPLE Magazine* as a Book of the Week, and Good Morning, America/ABC News listed it in their top 15 books of November. Based on a true story of Portuguese immigration just prior to the Civil War, *Publisher’s Weekly* gave it a starred review, as did *Kirkus*. #MAM



In December **Michael Scott Moore** (19) wrote about the return of Somali pirates and their well-funded Houthi colleagues for *New Lines Magazine*. He also wrote about the issues surrounding anti-Semitic speech in Germany—and free speech in general—since the violence of October 7 and the war that’s followed.

More Releases

Katherine Min’s (8x 95-13) novel *The Fetishist* was published posthumously. #MAM

Edie Meidav’s (3x 92-19) novel, a pandemic survival text, *Another Love Discourse* won this year’s Big Other fiction prize, and was an Indie finalist. #MAM

Jane Roland Martin (16) released *Preserving Planet Earth* in May.

Tess Taylor (09, 19) appeared at AWP, and in February, held the readings *Wild Patience: A Poet-Mom* reading at 21c Museum Hotel; *Leaning Toward Light: Poems for Gardens and the Hands that Tend Them* at Linda Hall Library, which also included Fellows **Patty Crane** (11, 19) and **Sophie Cabot Black** (88); and *EcoTheo* at Natasha Ria Art Gallery. She also participated in several panels in February: *Build Your Sharp & Unforgettable Bouquet: On the Making of Anthologies*, which also included Fellows **Jennifer Barber** (17) and **LeAnne Howe**

(95); and *Poet to Playwright: On the Dramatic Joy of Changing Hats*, again, including **Howe** and **Patricia Smith** (12).

Brad Fox’s (22) nonfiction work *THE BATHYSPHERE BOOK: Effects of the Luminous Ocean Depths* won the National Book Foundation’s Science + Literature award for nonfiction! The award includes a \$10,000 prize. #MAM

Adrienne Chung (23), book launch and reading at Peterborough’s Toadstool Bookshop during her residency.

Julialicia Case (23) co-authored the book *Story Mode: The Creative Writer’s Guide to Narrative Video Game Design*.

Terese Svoboda (79, 13, 22) published her ninth and tenth books of fiction: *Roxy and Coco* (W. Virginia U.) and *The Long Swim* (UMass). With a second memoir, *Hitler and My Mother-in-Law*, scheduled for 2024. #MAM

Ross Perlin’s (22) #MAM book, *Language City*, released.

Debra Spark’s (06) released her sixth novel, *Discipline*.

Christopher Bolin (06, 08) released the poetry collection *Anthem Speed*. #MAM

Joyce Maynard (08, 23) held a reading of her work in Hancock, NH.

Jeremy Eichler (18) released *Time’s Echo*.

Nikola Madzirov’s (23) essay, *The war of silence – the poetry of scars*, was published online at *Versopolis*.

Rebecca Kaiser Gibson (96) read from her work around New Hampshire.

Anna Noyes (19) published a new novel, *The Blue Maiden*. #MAM

Jen Silverman’s (3x 12-22) novel, *There’s Going to Be Trouble*, released in April. #MAM

Haleh Liza Gafari’s (24) *GOLD RUMI* performance, with Shahzad Ismaily and Daniel Fresco at LPR - LE POISSON ROUGE in New York. #MAM

Brian Christian’s (3x 09-17) *The Alignment Problem* released. The book tells the story of the ethical and safety crises into which the field of A.I. is plunging, and the diverse, interdisciplinary group of researchers who are rising to meet that challenge head-on. #MAM

Vittorio Lodato’s (23) third novel, *Honey*, was published in April.

Lisa Ko’s (14, 21) *Memory Piece* published in March followed by a book tour with events in NY, CA, WA, DC, and MA.

Maira McCavana’s (22) debut short story collection, *Electrodomesticos* was published in February.

Nam Le’s (07, 12) first book of poetry, *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem*, released.

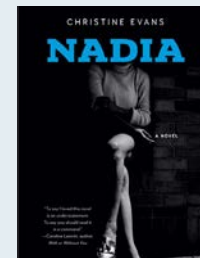
Sylvia Brownrigg’s (99) *The Whole Staggering Mystery: A Story of Fathers Lost and Found* came out in April from Counterpoint.

Deborah Taffa’s (21) released a memoir, *Whiskey Tender*. #MAM

Latest Literary Releases



Amy Kurzweil (19, 22)



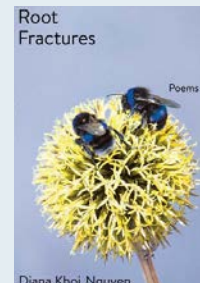
Christine Evans (3x 02-17)



Matthew J.C. Clark (3x 12-21) #MAM



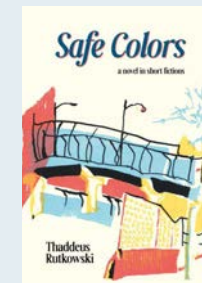
Matthew Lippman (24)



Diana Khoi Nguyen (23)



Nancy Bowen (10, 17) and **Elizabeth Willis** (04)



Thaddeus Rutkowski (95)

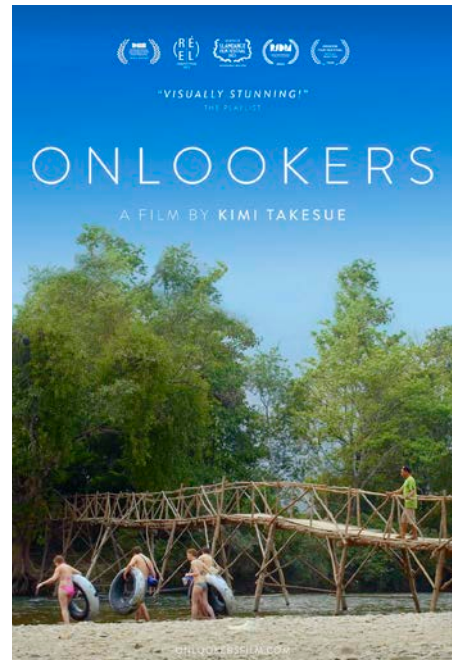


Tricia Romano (19, 22) #MAM

Architectural and Film News

Onlookers, Made at MacDowell project, Screens at Metrograph

Kimi Takesue's (4x 01-16) new feature-length documentary, *Onlookers*, which she worked on at MacDowell, had a theatrical run at METROGRAPH in New York City in February. They also ran a mini streaming retrospective of her past films *Where Are You Taking Me?* and *95 And 6 To Go*. *Onlookers* screened as part of the series *Fire Over Water: Films Of Transcendence*. #MAM



Latest Eisenberg Doc Plays at Gene Siskel in Chicago

Daniel Eisenberg's (90) *The Unstable Object II* showed at Gene Siskel Film Center in the fall. The film has won at Grand Prix International Competition, Prix Georges De Beauregard International, and International Film Festival Marseille. It was an Official Selection at IDFA, Amsterdam; New York Film Festival; International Film Festival Marseille; DMZ Festival, Seoul; Beldocs International Documentary Film

Lawrence Israel Prize to Sanders

Joel Sanders (3x 99-07, right) was awarded the 2023 Lawrence Israel Prize, given annually to an individual or firm whose work enriches The Fashion Institute of Technology Interior Design students' course of study. As prize winner, Joel delivered a lecture at the school titled "Inclusive Design: Equity, Access + Wellness," on the spatial consequences of DEIA and the work his firm MIXdesign has done to develop design recommendations, prototypes, and guidelines geared to making public spaces and everyday building types foster a sense of safety, accessibility, and belonging for all.

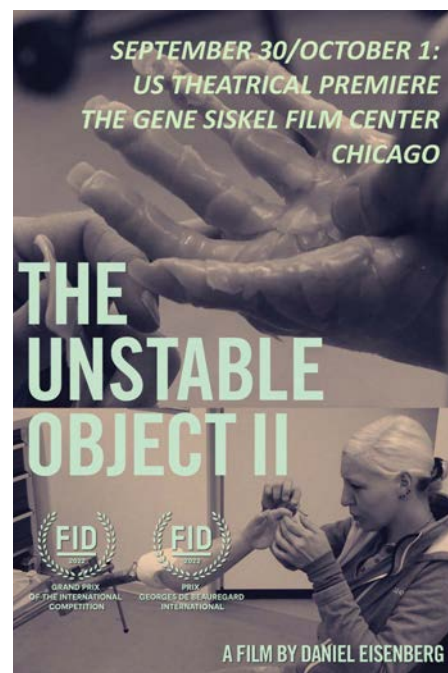


Elgin Cleckley (22) released his book: *Empathic Design: Perspectives on Creating Inclusive Spaces*. In this work, Elgin brings together ten leaders and visionary practitioners in architecture, urban design, spatial justice, planning, and design activism. The chapter authors show how to take an empathy-based design approach and ways to translate the generational lived experiences of marginalized communities into built form.

Richard W. Hayes (5x 01-16) presented a paper at the annual conference of the Henry James Society in Kyoto in July. To his knowledge, Hayes may be the only architect ever to speak at a Henry James conference.

Festival; FICUNAM, Mexico City; and Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, Japan.

According to Tony Pipolo in *ARTFORUM*: "Daniel Eisenberg continues the project he began a few years ago to film factory workers in different parts of the world. Part two begins in a prosthetics factory in Duderstadt, Germany, where following the stages of producing artificial body parts is as eerily hypnotic as any sci-fi narrative, and far more instructive. Eisenberg's camera is as precision-gearred as the meticulously executed labor it follows. In one unusually long scene, we watch the delicate, step-by-step fashioning of a human finger as it uncannily seems to come to life through the coordination, sensitivity, and finesse befitting a work of art."



Noise Cloud Shows at 10b Projects

Luis Arnías' (22) #MAM film *Noise Cloud* (below) was on view at 10b Projects in August. He was logging and editing the experimental film in residence and the main structure was created after sharing the work with peers in residence.



More Filmmaker News

David Licata (10, 17) was awarded a New York State Council on the Arts Support for Artists Grant to fund *Luthier* (working title), a short documentary about a San Diego-based maker of exceptional classical guitars.

Jill Downen (09) received an award to attend Art Omi

The Cinema Conservancy celebrated the films of **Manfred Kirchheimer** (78, 81) in December at the Museum of the Moving Image.

Xavier Marrades' (12, 22) residency project, *Murmurations*, featuring a video installation and photographs, opened on October 6th in a public-run art space in Spain. #MAM

Deborah Stratman's (3x 10-21) featurette *Last Things* played for a week at Anthology Film Archives in NYC.

Maryam Tafakory (23) was hosted at the Museum of Modern Art as part of their artist cinema series *Modern Mondays*.

Janie Geiser (3x 90-18) screened her series "Double Vision" (2012-2018) in Los



Angeles at LA Filmforum (above).

Kelly Sears (15, 22) premiered a new film, *The Lost Season*, at Sundance Film Festival. #MAM

Michael Gitlin's (06, 16) *The Night Visitors*, an experimental essay film about moths, had its world premiere at the 2023 New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center. #MAM

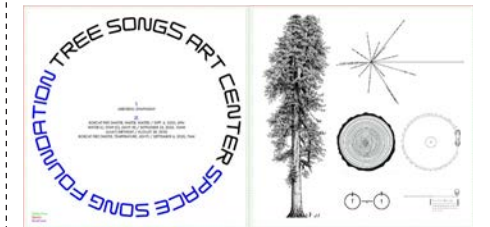
Martin Shanly (24) screened *Arturo a Los 30* in NY at Museum of the Moving Image as part of a series called "Las Premieres."

Tamar Baruch's (19, 23, below) recent film, *Her Name Was Zehava*, won Best Documentary Short Film at the Haifa Film Festival. #MAM

Musical Composition and Interdisciplinary News

Tree Songs Album Released by Christensen

Julia Christensen (15) released her first album in December with Onyx Records. *Tree Songs Art Center* is a collaboration with Tom Hall as part of a larger collaboration with the Space Song Foundation. *Tree Songs Art Center* parses sensor data collected from three trees in a gallery at ArtCenter College of Design during the 2020 exhibition that never opened. The record delivers the songs of those trees – light, temperature, and moisture all expressed as sonic waves – so we can hear what happened in the gallery that year. Her video piece *Cold Snap, Peach Point*,



South Bass Island, 1/2/18-1/10/18 was on view at the Beeler Gallery at the Columbus College of Art and Design in the exhibition "Wake...Sleep...Dream." Finally, she showed work alongside colleagues in the Oberlin Studio Art Department at a faculty/staff show that included a video about the *Tree of Life* project.



Max Stern, (73, 75, above) lectured in summer 2023 on his *Biblical Compositions* at the University of Chile, Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Santiago as composer-in residence and guest of the Dean of Arts, professor Rolando Cori Traverso.

Meredith Monk (6x 87-07) performed the premiere of her work *Indra's Net* at Park Avenue Armory in NYC. *Indra's Net* is an interdisciplinary evening-length

work centered on interdependence, and the culmination of Monk's critically acclaimed trilogy exploring our relationship with the natural world. "For many years I have been interested in creating work that can serve as an antidote to the fragmentation, disconnection and uncertainty of contemporary life," Monk reflected.

New releases and performances

James Brandon Lewis (22) released albums, *For Mahalia, With Love* (below) last September and *Transfiguration*, in February. *For Mahalia, With Love* received the Acadmie Charles Cros Grad Prix Jazz 2023. He spoke about the project in an interview with *Post Genre*. #MAM



Douglas Boyce (17, 23) had two performances of his #MAM songs, settings to poems by **Jennifer Chang** (4x 02-23). The premiere took place in the fall and were performed again at the New York Opera Center in March. He also released a new album, *The Bird is an Alphabet*, with New Focus Records.

Evan Hause (5x 94-06) released a new electronic music composition, "Trinity." It may be heard on all streaming platforms.

Hauke Berheide and Amy Stebbins premiered *Labyrinth* at the Augsburg State Theater. This interdisciplinary production combines virtual reality, video mapping, and an orchestra of new, analogue instruments built by the composer.

Javier Moreno (18) released his album *Quinteto Capital* with Fresh Sound Records.

Michael Djupstrom's (17) string quartet, written for the Dover Quartet, nicknamed "Romanian," because its composition was inspired by Transylvanian folk music, was included in a contemporary music festival in Cluj, Romania in November. It wasn't the first performance of the piece, but it was the first one in Romania. #MAM At the same time, Djupstrom's *Two Fantasies* for string trio is being premiered in a series of concerts on a European chamber music tour presented by the Curtis Institute of Music.

Paul Brantley (6x 94-23) Announced four new publications of his music that are now available from Bill Holab Music — his first since before the pandemic. *Pomes Penyeach*, three settings of James Joyce for soprano and double-bass; *Kith*, for violin and cello; *Filles De L'elysee* for cello and classical guitar; and *Apollo Architects: builder of shelters and bridges*, for alto flute and classical guitar.

Kate Soper (13, 18) participated in Wet Ink's 25th anniversary festival, at Dixon Place in NYC in December. The festival featured compositions for large ensemble by Anthony Braxton, Pauline Oliveros, and Christian Wolff, Wet Ink repertoire

new and old by Chiyoko Szlavnic, Peter Ablinger, mathias spahlinger, and Rick Burkhardt, and music by the band's members, including the premiere of Soper's "Epithets." Also, Soper's opera *The Hunt* had a run at Miller Theatre this fall. She released studio albums of *The Hunt* later in spring 2024.

Lea Bertucci (16, 22) released a new record, *Of Shadow and Substance* (below), in December. The album is entirely self-produced. #MAM



Mara Gibson (16) released a performance recording of *Rhythmic Mosaics*, her third portrait CD, with American Music Ensemble. She also shared work from her time as a faculty member at Mostly Modern including the piece *Fight/Flight* for Atlantic Brass Quintet.

Christopher Cerrone (15, 17) held the world Premiere of *Beaufort Scales*, a 36-minute work for Lorelei Ensemble, live electronics, video, and light, at Mass MoCA.

Vadim Neselovskyi (12, 15) was in residence at Stone NYC and presented four projects in four days in November. He held the U.S. premiere of two works, *Duo* and *Ukrainian Diary* (he then continued to tour these pieces in the U.S. and Europe), and showed *ODESA: A Musical Walk Through a Legendary City*, which has been his main project for the past two years, performing it hundreds of times around the world.



In October, Fellows **Rachel Perry** (4x 09-17) and **Ted Hearne** (4x 09-21) launched the New York premiere of their song cycle *Dorothea* at Carnegie Hall (above).

Alicia Svigals (14) performed Klezmer music alongside Donald Sosin at several concert showings of the films *Man Without a World* and *City Without Jews*. The events were held at Brown University, Denver Silent Film Festival, and Sondheim Center for Performing Arts.

Kevin Day (24) premiered the opera he wrote at MacDowell, *Lalovavi*, with the Cincinnati Opera. It was the first work in Cincinnati Opera's groundbreaking, three-opera commissioning initiative, The Black Opera Project. #MAM



Chase Elodia (22) went on tour with his band, Perennials.

Jamie Baum's (14, 21) new Septet+ recording, *What Times Are These*, was released on Sunnyside Records, and coincided with a release concert in May.

Tod Lippy's (18) new album, *The Present*, was released in May. The LP's first single, "Florida Plates," debuted alongside a Kyle Garrett-directed video.

Leah Reid (17, 23) premiered *Jouer*, a work for soprano saxophone and electronics, at the Cube at Virginia Tech. #MAM

Byron Asher (18) released a new record, *Lord, when you send the rain*, in April. The title is a quote from a James Baldwin poem that he first read while in residence, which coincided with the dedication of the James Baldwin Library. Asher says he spent a large part of his time in residence diving into Baldwin's writing. #MAM

Brian Rogers Releases Debut Record

Brian Rogers (20) recently released his debut album, *Small Songs*. #MAM "In late 2019, while at an artist residency (MacDowell), I assembled more than 100 hours of audio material, recorded solo, generally late at night, via modular synthesizer. Throughout 2020 and 2021, these recordings were meticulously (and exhaustively) condensed and sequenced into twenty-nine very short compositions (or "small songs"), which unfold as a kind of abstract, auditory, auto-fictional narrative of shifting interior states, informed by a month-long cross country road trip I undertook, solo, in 2021. Writer and cultural critic Claudia La Rocco composed



the song titles in the form of a 29-line poem; the recordings were mastered by Stephan Mathieu; and the album was pressed in a very limited edition of vinyl LP's which, due to a global vinyl shortage, only recently arrived."

[Learn More,](#)

[See a Slideshow, and Watch Videos About Medal Day](#)

MEDAL DAY



64th Medal Day Includes Yoko Ono Installation

More than a thousand people joined us on Sunday, July 21 for MacDowell's annual Medal Day celebration, honoring interdisciplinary arts icon and activist Yoko Ono with the 64th Edward MacDowell Medal. The free and open-to-the-public celebration featured the installation of two [Yoko Ono Wish Trees](#) in our orchard.

MacDowell Madam Chairman of the Board, Fellow, and best-selling author [Nell Painter](#) presented the Medal to Ono's long-time music manager [David Newgarden](#). Newgarden attended because the medalist could not make the trip. The brief ceremony featured curator, art historian, and arts policy special-

ist [Nora Halpern](#), who spoke about Ono and her work in her introductory remarks. Halpern curated a retrospective exhibition of Yoko Ono in Venice, Italy in 2009. After the Medal presentation, attendees enjoyed a picnic lunch, [added personal wishes to the Wish Trees](#), and toured open studios, where visitors had the opportunity to meet MacDowell artists-in-residence.

American avant-garde multimedia artist, Grammy-winning composer, and musician [Laurie Anderson](#) chaired this year's Medal selection panel. Other members included Bushwick Starr Arts Center cofounder and MacDowell Board

member [Noel Allain](#), MacDowell Fellow and acclaimed choreographer [Bebe Miller](#), National Black Theatre CEO [Sade Lythcott](#), MacDowell Fellow and interdisciplinary artist [Christopher Doyle](#), and Arts Student League Artistic & Executive Director [Michael Hall](#).

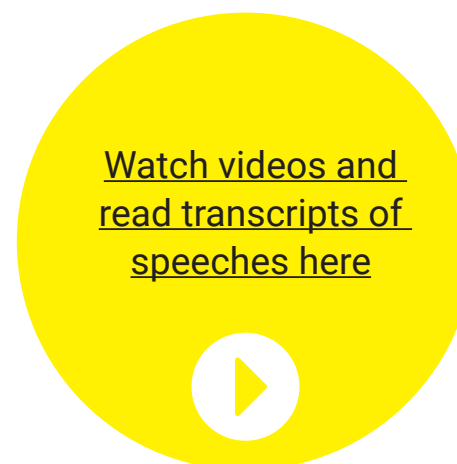
Since 1996, Yoko Ono has invited people from around the world to write their personal wishes on a piece of paper and tie them to Wish Tree installation sites around the world. The wishes are returned to Ono and continue on in connection with her Imagine Peace Tower, a 2007 installation on Viðey Island off Reykjavik, Iceland, dedicated to the memory of her late husband John Lennon. To date, more than two million people have shared their wishes. We welcomed Medal Day participants to take part in this project after the ceremony.



Clockwise from top: Madam Chairman of the Board Nell Painter welcomes the Medal Day crowd; Executive Director Chiwoniso Kaitano with her parents after the ceremony; David Newgarden displays Yoko Ono's medal as Nell Painter and Board President Christine Fisher applaud; after the ceremony, attendees added their individual wishes to two Wish Trees in MacDowell's orchard.
 (photos by Beowulf Sheehan, Joanna Eldredge Morrissey, and Cassandra Yerkes)



Clockwise from top left: A group of artists-in-residence enjoy their picnic lunches; introductory speaker Nora Halpern reads a passage from Ono's book *Grapefruit: A Book of Instructions and Drawings*, a whimsical book of instructions for art and for life; picnickers enjoying the afternoon's weather; playwright Rhianna Ilube speaks with visitors to New Jersey Studio during the open studio portion of the day after lunch. (photos by Joanna Eldredge Morrissey)



EVENTS

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

KATE PREFAKES



Board members, friends, and supporters gather for a picture outside the James Baldwin Library.

2024 New Hampshire Benefit

We were thrilled to gather with more than 120 of our supporters, friends, neighbors, artists-in-residence, and board members to raise more than \$65,000 in support of our mission at the 2024 MacDowell New Hampshire Benefit on Saturday, May 18. Thanks to you and your generous support, we are able to continue to provide time, space, and care to the over 300 artists-in-residence who come to MacDowell each year.

The evening, hosted by MacDowell Fellow **Jared Mezzocchi** (17, 20), a two-time OBIE Award-winning theater artist and Producing Artistic Director of Andy's Summer Playhouse, began with a cocktail reception in the James Baldwin Library, followed by a musical performance from New York based vocalist, composer, and educator, **Aubrey Johnson** (23), and her trio before dinner from the world-famous MacDowell kitchen in historic Bond Hall, the heart of the MacDowell campus, where artists-in-residence gather each evening.



Aubrey Johnson takes the stage for a vocal performance with her band.

KATE PREFAKES



Jared Mezzocchi was our master-of-ceremonies during the New Hampshire Benefit.

KATE PREFAKES



MacDowell Downtown is a free series of presentations by MacDowell Fellows that are open to the public. It takes place on the first Friday of the month from March to November in downtown Peterborough, NH. Each season of MacDowell Downtown features a wide array of programming, including film screenings, readings, artist talks, interviews, musical performances, and more. MacDowell Downtown begins at 7:30 p.m. typically at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough.

Performance Artist **Allison Akootchook Warden** opened the season on March 1 with video, music, and a talk about Iñupiaq practices. An Inuit tribal member of the Native Village of Kaktovik off Alaska's north slope, Allison shared images and music, and performed on an Indigenous drum as she sang. She aimed to shed light on her current project of capturing on video her attempts to reenact the practice of transformation.



On April 5, filmmaker **Courtney Stephens** presented clips of her documentary work, talked about her current project, and introduced an eight-minute short called *Perfect Fifths* that was shot at MacDowell in 2019. She brings an anthropologist's keen observational skills to the subjects of her films whether creating documentaries or experimental shorts, exploring language, historical geography, and women's lives.

On May 3, experimental filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist **Ana Armengod** screened a selection of experimental films and shared the interplay between her work as a filmmaker, a poet, and a visual artist.

On June 7, composer **Kyle Rivera** shared his ever-evolving musical perspective in the June edition of MacDowell Downtown at The Monadnock Center for History and Culture. Rivera expounded on his musical explorations and process, shared a recording or two of his works for orchestras and ensembles of all sizes, revealing his distinctive approaches to instrumentation.

Save These Dates!
JUNE 29
Medal Day 2025
OCTOBER 20
National Benefit in NYC

REMEMBERING

Robin MacNeil

Robert (Robin) MacNeil, A Remembrance by Carter Wiseman

When I became President of the MacDowell Board in 1999, Robin MacNeil — who died in April at the age of 93 — was 15 years older than me, had been Chairman of the Board for several years, and joining him at the head of the table was an intimidating experience. As a journalist, I had always considered Robin to be a hero of my profession — a charismatic TV anchor who had made his bones in the field, including coverage of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Although Robin was a star, he didn't flaunt it, even if he made ample use of his movie-star looks and gravelly baritone.

We established an early bond when we discovered that we were both "wire men," meaning that we had worked at the news-wire services, Robin at Reuters, and I at The Associated Press.

Robin was my superior in age, experience, and rank, and he knew about rank; his father commanded a Canadian sub-chaser in the early days of World War II, and his brother was an admiral. But



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

happy with it, but we were so far down the track that no one wanted to stop the train. Robin did. "This isn't good enough," he said. "It's going to mean losing some money, but we should start over." He was right, and we did. The addition is now a jewel in MacDowell's campus crown.

Like many responsible stewards of arts organizations in constant need of money, Robin was a fiscal realist, but he worried about "corporate drift." While he was not about to see MacDowell's financial condition compromised, he didn't want it to acquire too high a shine. Although a Canadian by birth, Robin retained an English faith in the virtues of frugality.

As a journalist and as MacDowell's Chairman, Robin repeatedly impressed me as a man of the old school in the best sense of those words. Those values may go out of fashion from time to time when things look bad, but they have a way of coming back. Robin's father must have believed that in the North Atlantic in 1940.

After I left MacDowell's Board, in 2010, Robin and I had lunch every couple of months for some years. At one of those lunches, Robin told me that his father was bitterly disappointed that his son did not follow him and his brother into the Canadian navy. We should all be happy that he sailed our way instead.

Joan Acocella | Writer Joan Acocella, whose essays about dance and literature appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The*



Robin was surprisingly self-deferential, happy to entertain others' views, even if they were not his own.

Robin had served on other boards, but resigned from several because of their emphasis on money and social status. I think he loved MacDowell because of its mission, and lack of pretension. In comparing MacDowell to its sibling institution, he liked to repeat the cliché that while the sex might be better at Yaddo, the art was better at MacDowell.

Among the decisions Robin backed while we served together was dropping the tradition of asking Fellows for a "voluntary contribution" after their visits to Peterborough. He argued that a MacDowell Fellowship was a recognition of excellence, and should not burden the artist with even a measure of guilt about paying back.

If Robin seemed at times self-deprecating, it was a quality common to canny diplomats. I remember well his massaging of Vartan Gregorian's ego to persuade him to write an introduction to the book we published for MacDowell's centennial.

But he did not shy from difficult decisions about Board members or staff. David Macy and I were personal beneficiaries of his willingness to stand up to internal intrigue.

Not surprisingly for a serious journalist, Robin was wary of excessive public relations efforts, especially new mission statements, tag lines, and focus groups. More than once during MacDowell's occasional attempts at institutional reinvention he would lean over to me during a Board meeting and whisper, "We already know exactly what we are doing!"

Perhaps Robin's most tangible intervention involved the design of the addition to Savidge Library. We had hired an architect, who produced a self-consciously "creative" design. Nobody was very

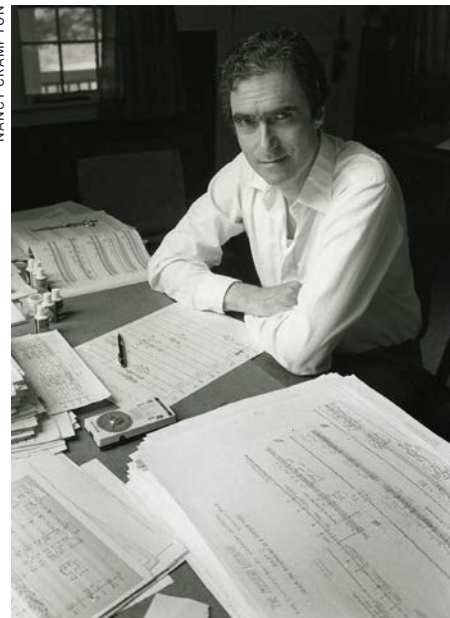


New York Review of Books for more than four decades, died on January 7, 2024 at home in Manhattan. She was 78. Acocella, who was in residence in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, and 2014, was often trying to determine what made certain artists so successful. She wrote deftly and deeply about dancers and choreographers, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Suzanne Farrell, and George Balanchine. Through most of the 1970s, Acocella was an editor and writer at Random House, where she and two other authors wrote what became a successful textbook about abnormal psychology. In the 1980s, she became a senior critic at *Dance Magazine*, eventually writing dance criticism for *The Daily News of New York*, *Financial Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. She received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1993 and two years later, she was hired as a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, where she worked until 2019. Acocella also wrote critically about literature. In addition to her essays, she wrote several books, including *Willa Cather and the Politics of Criticism* (2000), which grew out of an essay in *The New Yorker*, and *Mark Morris* (1993), about the brash, self-assured dancer and choreographer. Her book, *Twenty-eight Artists and Two Saints*, a collection of essays, was written in part at MacDowell. A new collection of Acocella's literary writings, *The Bloodied Nightgown and Other Essays*, was published in 2024.

Pearl Bowser | Film historian, curator, and author Pearl Bowser, who was instrumental in preserving and bringing to light the works of Black filmmakers from the last century, died on September 14 in Brooklyn. She was 92. Bowser, who was in residence in 1992 to write about silent filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, developed an interest in the forgotten works of early Black filmmakers in the 1960s, and began hunting down and collecting works that were, for their periods, triumphs of independent filmmaking. The films she studied dealt with topics most filmmakers at the time wouldn't touch, and they served as historical documents, depicting Black communities in ways not seen in

mainstream movies of the time. By the early 1970s, Bowser was curating film series, taking the works she had discovered into theaters and classrooms. In 2012, she donated her collection of hundreds of films, video, and audio tapes she had amassed to the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution. Bowser made a few films herself, including *Midnight Ramble*, a documentary she made with Bestor Cram for the PBS series "The American Experience" about "race movies," as films made by Micheaux and others for Black audiences were called. In the late 1960s Bowser also wrote a newspaper cooking column. In 1970, with Joan Eckstein, she published her best recipes in a book, *A Pinch of Soul*.

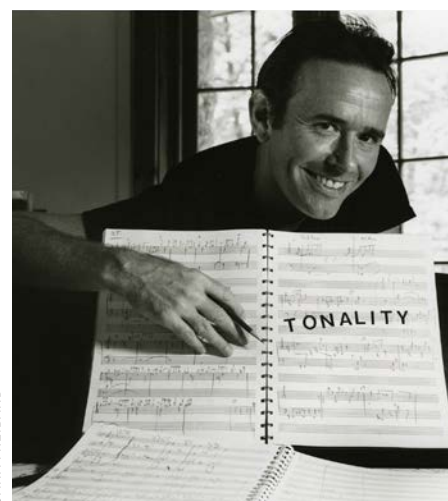
Gheorghe Costinescu | Composer Gheorghe Costinescu, whose chamber, choral, orchestral, and stage works have been performed in major cities in Europe and the United States, and at the Royan, Shiraz-Persepolis and Tanglewood festivals, died on July 11, 2023. He was 87. In addition to being a composer, he was also a conductor, pianist, musicologist, and drew and painted. He was in residence in 1970, twice in 1972, 1974, 1977, 1984, 1986, and 1990. He studied composition at the Bucharest Conservatory, The Juilliard School in New York, and



NANCY CRAMPTON

Columbia University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1976 under the guidance of Chou Wen-chung. His stage work, *The Musical Seminar*, won the League-ISCM National Composers Competition. Costinescu received grants and awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the NEA, the NYFA, the American Music Center, Meet the Composer, and The Ford Foundation. He was a Fulbright Scholar and also received the Romanian Academy's George Enescu prize, The Juilliard School's Alexandre Gretchaninoff Memorial Prize, and Fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. For his drawings in musical scores, he was awarded a Creative Artists Public Service fellowship in graphics from the state of New York. His theoretical writings include articles on contemporary music, essays on comparative aesthetics, and *A Treatise on Musical Phonology*.

David Del Tredici | Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici, who started out as an experimentalist but became best known for a midcareer shift that led to him being widely considered the pioneer of the Neo-Romantic movement in music, died November 18, 2023 in New York. He was 86. His work not only forged a fresh compositional path, but also gave hope to a generation of young composers seeking a new way of creating music. Del Tredici's work received numerous awards and has been performed by nearly every major American and European orchestral ensemble. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 for *In Memory of a Summer Day* for soprano and orchestra, and he was in residence 18 times between 1965 and 1998. Many of Del Tredici's early works were inspired by the writings of James Joyce and Lewis Carroll. His *Alice in Wonderland* settings, which were written over a span of more than 25 years (1968-1995), included *Final Alice* and *In Memory of a Summer Day*, which both became best-selling classical music recordings. More recently, Del Tredici set to music numerous contemporary American poets, often celebrating a gay sexual-



JANA FREIBAND

ty. These compositions, including *Gay Life* and *Love Addiction*, garnered Del Tredici considerable media attention. He was twice named one of *Out Magazine's* "People of the Year." Del Tredici's work has been performed by chamber ensembles and orchestras globally and recorded on more than a dozen labels, earning him a Grammy nomination for Best New Classical Composition in 2007.

C.J. "Jonty" Driver | Poet, novelist, teacher, and political activist Charles Jonathan "Jonty" Driver, who became known as a major South African English poet of the last quarter of a century by the literary names of "CJ Driver" and "Jonty Driver," died on May 21, 2023 in Bristol, UK. He was 83. South African by ancestry, birth, upbringing, and some of his education, he received a master's of philosophy at Trinity College, Oxford in 1967, became British and was for nearly 30 years a prohibited immigrant in South Africa. His published works include the novels *Elegy for a Revolutionary*, *Send War in Our Time*, *O Lord*, and *A Messiah of the Last Days*; 10 books of poetry; five books of biography and memoir; and a book of verse for children. He was in residence in 2009 when he worked on a seventh book of poems, titled *Still Further*. During studies at the University of Cape Town he became head of the anti-apartheid *National Union of South African Students*, was suspected of being a member of the African Resistance Movement, and was held in solitary confinement for five weeks under

the 90-day Detention Law. Two days after being released without charge by the Nationalist Party, he left for the UK. While studying at Oxford his passport was cancelled by the South African government and he remained stateless until being accepted as a British citizen a few years later, though he remained "fiercely South African at heart." It took more than 20 years before he was permitted to visit South Africa once more.

Winthrop Knowlton | Author Winthrop Knowlton died on October 13, 2023 in New York City at the age of 93. He grew up on Long Island and attended The Lawrenceville School, Harvard College (1953), and Harvard Business School (1955), where he graduated with distinction as a Baker Scholar. Over the course of his long and extraordinary life, Knowlton worked in a wide range of professions that encompassed finance, government service, book publishing, and academia. He was a prolific and well-reviewed author of six books—a mystery, two investment guides, the novel *False Premises*, and the memoir *My First Revolution*, about the year he spent in China between boarding school and college on the eve of the Chinese Communist Revolution in 1948. He began his career at the investment firm White Weld & Co., became the firm's youngest partner, and three years later, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler hired him to be a deputy assistant secretary in the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. Within a year he was promoted to assistant secretary of the treasury for international affairs. After Washington, he entered book publishing and became chairman and CEO of Harper & Row, and secured the rights to Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* and orchestrated its surprise publication. He also worked at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and served on many boards of directors.

Stephen Lawson | Festival actor, director, and playwright Stephen (Steve) Lawson, who has been described as having an unrelenting passion for the theater, died at his home in Williamstown, MA on February 7, 2023. He was 73.

Lawson was born in Rye, NY and attended Williams College before studying criticism at the Yale School of Drama. He was in residence in 1980 and 2000. Steve developed a relationship with the Williamstown Theatre Festival that spanned more than 50 years, beginning as a college student who wrote press releases and eventually helping create Williamstown Theatre Festival's "Second Company," which was the precursor to the Non-Equity Company, a primary tenet of WTF's training program for up-and-coming young actors. He directed many of its productions through the 70s and 80s, adapted many from great literary works. The first was Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* featuring Alec Baldwin, Tim Daly, and Jennifer Van Dyck. He went on to act in other Festival productions, including *Summerfolk* (1981), *Clothes for a Summer Hotel* (1989), and *No Orchids for Miss Blandish* (1990). In addition to his directing, adapting, and dramaturgy work at the WTF, Steve was the director of the Manhattan Theatre Club's "Writers in Performance" series, artistic director of City Center's new "Act 4: Great American Plays in Concert" project, and helped found and became executive director of the Williamstown Film Festival for 15 years. He wrote many projects for television, including *St. Elsewhere*, *The Dick Cavett Show*, an episode for *American Masters* based on the Group Theatre, an episode of *Great Performances* about Edith Wharton, and the television adaptation of *The Elephant Man*. During his 2000 MacDowell Fellowship, Steve



JESSICA KATZ

Lawson worked on the adaptation of his first novel into a screenplay, *Nobody Laughed Last*.

Colleen McElroy | American poet, short story writer, editor, and memoirist Colleen J. McElroy died December 12, 2023. She was 88. Rising to prominence at a time when few Black female poets were visible in the Pacific Northwest, McElroy would become a prolific writer and dominant force in the American poetry world. She became the first Black woman to become a full-time faculty member at the University of Washington, and helped hundreds of students hone their voices, shepherding future generations of writers and artists. She graduated from Kansas State University (1958) and from the University of Washington with a Ph.D. (1973). She was in residence in 1984 and 1986. McElroy was known for imbuing her writing with musicality and global perspective. Stories from her travels abroad mingled with excavations of her family history, as she spun threads in search of themes and emotions that transcended the individual. Over the course of her life, she published 16 books and poetry collections, which included *Winters without Snow* (1979); *Queen of the Ebony Isles* (1984), winner of the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation; *What Madness Brought Me Here: New and Selected Poems, 1968–1988* (1990); *Travelling Music* (1998); and *Sleeping with the Moon* (2007),



JANA FREIBAND

winner of the 2008 PEN Oakland National Literary Award. She was also a painter and a devoted dancer. According to *The Seattle Times*, peeling away the stereotypes of what it meant to be a Black woman in America would be a consistent theme in McElroy's work. She championed writing with precision, not only to illuminate truths of the human condition, but to also contribute to a collective effort of social change. McElroy was also an outspoken critic of the literary world's racial bias against writers of color, particularly for literary awards and recognition.

Nancy Potter | Fiction writer Nancy A. Potter, a retired University of Rhode Island professor, advisor, and mentor died on August 24, 2023 at home in South County, RI. She was 97. Potter received her B.A. and M.A. from Tufts University and her Ph.D. from Boston University. She was a professor of English at URI for 42 years and a recipient of URI's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was in residence in 1978, 1979–1980, 1980, and 1983. She retired from teaching modern American and British literature and creative writing in 1989. A beloved advisor and mentor, she directed 50 master's and Ph.D. theses and won Fulbright Senior Lecturer Grants in American Literature in Argentina, New Zealand, and Chile. She was a master of the short story, and was widely published in numerous journals including *The Kenyon Review* and *The Massachusetts Review*. A collection, *We Have Seen the Best of Our Times*, was published by Knopf in 1968. In addition, the University of Illinois Press published another, *Legacies* in 1987. Several students have benefitted from the Nancy Potter Endowment at URI, funded by colleagues and former students in her honor and enhanced by her own contributions. "Nancy Potter remains one of the most intelligent, eloquent, witty, gracious, and generous people I've had the pleasure of meeting in my life," said Winifred Brownell, dean of URI's College of Arts and Sciences in a 2004 interview. She was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1992.



JILL MEAD

Faith Ringgold | Visual artist Faith Ringgold, whose painting, sculpture, African-style mask- and doll-making, textiles, and performance art over 50 years explored themes of race, gender, class, family, and community, died April 13, 2024. She was 93. Born in New York City, Ringgold was working as an art teacher in public schools when she drew on her classical training as a painter and sculptor to begin a series of paintings called "American People," which portrayed the civil rights movement from a female perspective. She was also a longtime advocate of bringing the work of Black people and women into the collections of major American museums. During the 1980s, she began a series of "story quilts" that are among her best-known works, made of unstretched canvas, painted with narrative scenes and framed by borders of pieced fabric and often incorporating written text. She later embarked on a successful career as a children's book author and illustrator, including such well-known titles as *Tar Beach* (a Caldecott Honor Book and named one of 1988's best illustrated children's titles by *The New York Times Book Review*); *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* (1992), about Harriet Tubman; and *If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks* (1999).

Steve Sherman | Writer, journalist, photographer, painter, musician, and nature lover Stephen Barry Sherman died January 7, 2024 in Peterborough, NH. He was 85. Sherman was raised in the Los Angeles area and shared a passion for words and stories with his father, a *Los Angeles Times* Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist. Steve wrote both fiction and non-fiction in the forms of cookbooks, hiking guides, mysteries, adventure tales, and biographies, as well as thousands of newspaper and magazine articles. In the early 1970s he wanted to see, in his words, "Thoreau and Emerson country," and was accepted for his first MacDowell residency. During his second, 1972, he met fellow writer and musician, Julia Older. At the end of their residencies, Steve proposed the two of them hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine and write about their adventures. They hiked the 2,119 miles together and remained a partnership until Julia's death in 2021. Their books, many written collaboratively, are a testament to their shared interests and fierce curiosity in art, nature, literature, poetry, cooking, New England, and more.

Howard R. Wolf | Howard R. Wolf, who not only taught a wide range of styles and topics in literature as a professor emeritus of English and a senior fellow at SUNY-Buffalo but also tackled them as an author, died October 7, 2023 at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY after a short struggle with lung cancer. He was 86. He was in residence in 1975 and 2016. In addition to modern American literature, he lectured on short fiction, autobiography, and literary journalism. He was the author of three memoirs, a novel titled *Broadway Serenade*, personal essays, and many short stories. At the time of his death, Wolf was putting together a collection of his short works, *Exiles by Starlight*. A Fulbright Scholar in Turkey and South Africa, he worked on *Exiles by Starlight*, and a play, *Home at the End of the Day* during his 2016 residency. He was a graduate of Horace Mann School, earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1958 at Amherst College, and wrote for the school paper. He went on to receive a master's degree from Columbia University in 1960, served



in the Army and won the Hopwood Award for Fiction at the University of Michigan, where he taught composition and completed his Ph.D. in 1967. His collection of personal essays, "The Education of a Teacher," was included in *The Call to Reform Liberal Education: Great Books of 1987*. He was elected to the PEN American Center, and his manuscripts and letters have been collected by the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections since 1971.

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Amanda Valdez (12) exhibited her third solo exhibition at the Landing Gallery in Los Angeles last spring and summer. The show, "Wet Kiss," featured works that combined quilting, embroidery, and oil stick, among other materials.

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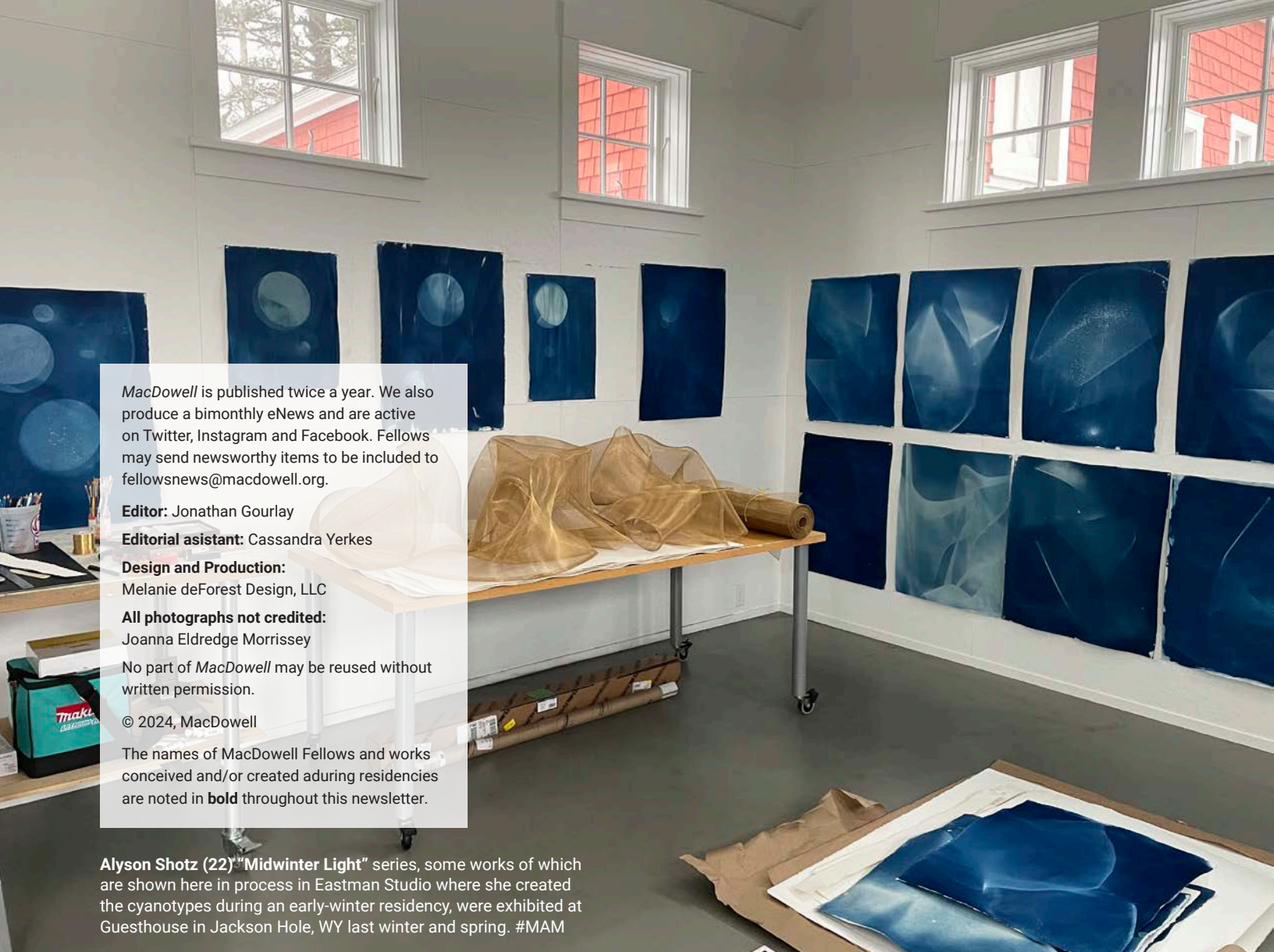
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The names of MacDowell Fellows and works conceived and/or created during residencies are noted in **bold** throughout this newsletter.

Alyson Shotz (22) "Midwinter Light" series, some works of which are shown here in process in Eastman Studio where she created the cyanotypes during an early-winter residency, were exhibited at Guesthouse in Jackson Hole, WY last winter and spring. #MAM

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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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