

The Millay Colony for the Arts



Autumn Knight performs *Sanity TV* at Whitney Biennial, 2019
Photo credit Paula Court

Welcome to Barnswallow

We are excited to connect with friends and family in this newly-imagined *Barnswallow*. We envision our quarterly newsletter as a way to share happenings, challenges and successes here at *Steepletop* as well as insights and interviews with alumni and supporters.

In October, Calliope and I completed our first year as Co-Directors: highlights included sightings of a bobcat and mama bear with two cubs, [EDNA 2017](#) and [EDNA 2018](#), wild blueberry picking, social media takeovers by residents, fireside chats on summer evenings in the meadow (with or without whiskey), plans for new website and the making of our first ever video promotion. Our beloved Barn space continues to fulfill a special place in our residents' hearts and memories; Chef Donna's delicious dinners continue to delight.

We have our eye on some novel initiatives for the coming year, including the Wintertide Rustic Retreat & Residency and informal alumni gatherings in NYC in partnership with [Pen Parentis](#). We are working on some wonderful special events for 2020 (alumni reunion anyone?) and are pleased to be hosting several weddings as well.



As always, we are actively pursuing sponsorships for our program, adding special fellowships for those who identify as trans* and genderqueer (as noted in last June's **Vincent Prize** Facebook fundraiser), as well as stipends for creators with children and others. We are looking forward to our first all-parent cohort this summer with flexible scheduling for up to two weeks. As the world of residencies has exploded, we are exceptionally proud to offer fully-funded residencies—thanks to our wonderful supporters—completely free of charge.

Stay tuned for monthly updates highlighting activities (events, openings, premieres, publications) as well as funding and other opportunities. (Did you know we have an alumni-only Facebook group?)

As always, we welcome your thoughts, insights and suggestions. With all best wishes and gratitude for continuing to keep the creative flame aglow.

Monika + Calliope

Co-Directors

WITH A SHOUT OUT OF DEEP GRATITUDE FOR THEIR AMAZING EDITORIAL GIFTS, GRAPHIC VIRTUOSITY AND OVERALL INSPIRED ASSISTANCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS ISSUE -- THANK YOU EMJI SAINT SPERO

From the Board

On behalf of the Millay Colony Board of Directors, welcome to our newsletter! Our biggest goal at the Colony is to provide support for the wonderful, talented, diverse group of artists we serve. We say to each other all the time that “Millay Colony is a state of mind.” Our hope is that, whatever your relationship to this magical place, that we can keep the dialog going, and provide some inspiration and support to those who are not watching the snow fall from their studio here at Steepletop. This year we have launched a new Facebook alumni group, we have grown our social media audience to approximately 10,000 (give us a follow on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, or **Twitter!**), we released a wonderful new issue of **EDNA**: our annual literary journal, and we have some informal alumni gatherings on the horizon—we know that artists often lead quite solitary lives, so please dive in and take part!

On the opposite end of the spectrum, one of the most magical things about the Colony is that we provide uninterrupted creative time—free of the daily distractions of life. We provide both the time and the permission for artists to really get into the creative zone.

If the Colony is not simply a place, but indeed a state of mind—which I really believe it is—wherever you are, please allow yourself the permission to take some uninterrupted creative time today. It will honor the Colony and what we do, as well as honor your creative practice. And *your* creative practice, my dears, is the most wonderful thing!

Whitney Lawson

Board President

Upcoming Events



Snow Drawings, Sonja Hinrichsen, 2011

WINTERTIDE RUSTIC RETREAT & RESIDENCIES

From December through March, we offer our *Wintertide* program: along with welcoming back alumni for work-trade, we invite the public to come to the Colony to refuel, reflect, and recharge! Come cozy up with us to prepare for an upcoming exhibit, publication deadline, or simply to give yourself some time and space in an inspired place to focus on your best creative self. For fees and scheduling, contact Calliope (link below).

[WINTERTIDE RESERVATIONS](#)

GETTING INFORMAL WITH PEN PARENTIS

What is [Pen Parentis](#)? Come find out at this informal gathering and get to know this unique community of authors who...are also parents! Pen Parentis encourages production of new, high-quality written work, and offers individual aid to writers. They cultivate relationships with organizations like Millay Colony by hosting activities that support creative writing, just like this one. They host monthly poetry salons and they kick off the new year on January 14th with their *Annual Winter Poetry Salon*, featuring Saran Kain Gutowsky, Diane Mehta, and Len Lawson.

[Learn more](#) »

Fall 2019 Artists-in-Residence



NOVEMBER RESIDENTS

Baily Cunningham, Rina Dweck,
Denice Frohman, Erika McCarthy, Richard
Moreno, Kat Chow,



OCTOBER RESIDENTS

Diana Arterian, Jeremiah Barber,
petros chrisostomou, Bonnie Jones,
Jennifer Lue, Shvanee Ramiohan



SEPTEMBER RESIDENTS (2ND SESSION)

Alisa Sikelianos-Carter, Christina Rivera
Cogswell, Lucas Iberico Lozada, Jordan
Kisner, Nathan Margoni, Amy Vensel



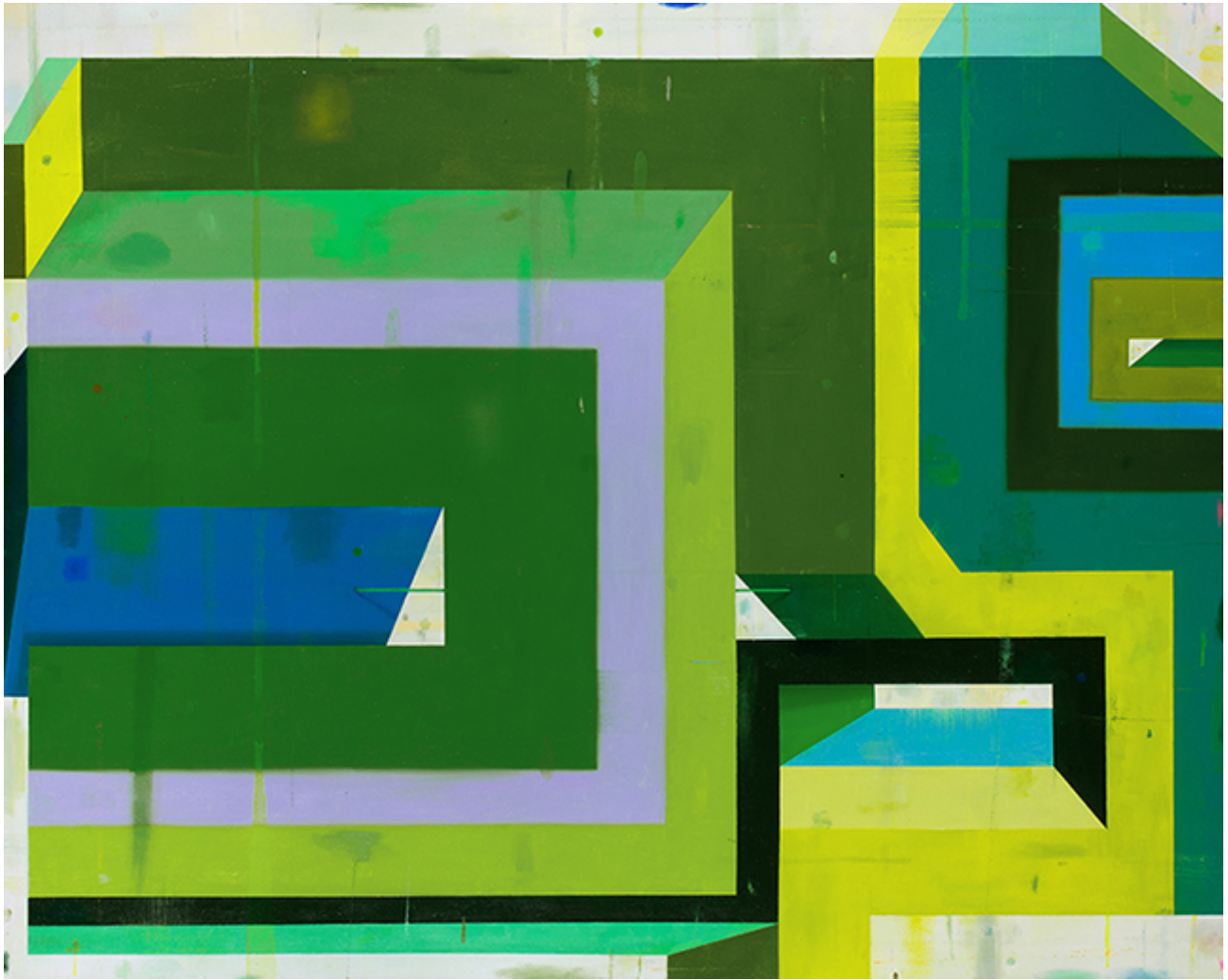
SEPTEMBER RESIDENTS (1ST SESSION)

Marissa Cherry, Alisa Sikelianos-Carter, Jordan
Kisner, Lucas Iberico Lozada, Amy Vensel,
Bonnie Chau, Zahida Rahemtulla

This Fall, like so many others here at Steepletop, was a whirlwind of arrivals, nonstop creative work, and departures that always seem to come too soon. The commitment, passion, and sheer talent of our residents, as well as the warm embrace of their fellow creators, always adds fuel to the fire that drives us to continue our mission. Friendships that begin at the Millay Colony oftentimes bloom into life-long friendships, as well as artistic and professional partnerships. As we wind up our end-of-year selection process, we are thrilled to be announcing our lucky incoming Spring residents soon!

[Learn more about our 2019 residents »](#)

Alumni Happenings



Facta non Verba, [Deborah Zlotsky](#)

As in the past, our alumni continue to receive international recognition for their works, in part made possible by residencies at the Millay Colony for the Arts. In 2018, [Sigrid Nunez](#) won the National Book Award for her novel *The Friend* ([Carmen Maria Machado](#) was a finalist!), and [Andrew Sean Greer](#) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *Less*. This both year [Michael Harrison](#) and [Deborah Zlotsky](#) were honored as Guggenheim Fellows. Of course, many of our alumni continue to publish, perform, and present in places and spaces around the world and online, and we always welcome such events to share with the public as well as our friends/family.

[Send us your news!](#) »

Alumni Interview

TARA KUTZ + KRISTIN STZYK



"Hubris matters more than talent." "Be bold and be caring."

"There is this idea of a genius artist, the one who shows up and makes absolute magic happen through a mysterious process that is rooted in a natural talent. That idea is a romantic one, and one that prevented me from feeling like I deserved to be a filmmaker for many years. These two pieces of advice remind me to dream big, avoid a scarcity of thought, and to cherish those around me."

[**READ MORE** »](#)

Alumni Events

12.13 | New York

WO CHAN at BGS-QD

Bureau of General Services—Queer Division hosts FAGNANIMOUS: A night of poetry and performance featuring poet and drag performer [Wo Chan](#), alongside Kazim Ali, Joey DeJesus, and Rajiv Mohabir. 7-9:30pm.

[**Learn more** »](#)

12.17-1.12 | Brooklyn

RINA AC DWECK at ChaShaMa

A ChaNorth Solo Show awardee, [Dweck](#) transforms objects associated with female adornment until they become grotesque, pointing to the ugliness that underlies this idea. In her solo show, *False is Grace & Vain is Beauty*, she focuses on hair as a foundational material, looking at Judaism's complicated history in relation to women, as well as her own relationship to Judaism and its ideas about the feminine. Opening Reception is December 17th 6-8 pm.

[**Learn more** »](#)

1.30 | Denver

DEBORAH ZLOTSKY at ROBISCHON GALLERY

An installation of new work by painter [Deborah Zlotzky](#). The show opens January 1st and runs through March.

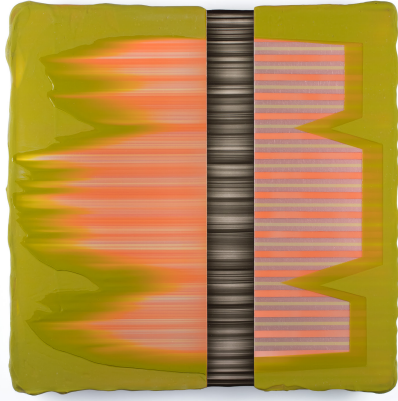
[**Learn more** »](#)

2.19 | Halifax

MICHAEL HARRISON at SCOTIA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

An evening of solo cello featuring Philip Glass, Kaija Saariaho, Fjóla Evans, Giovanni Sollima, India Yeshe Gailey and Michael Harrison's "Just Ancient Loops." 7:30pm.

[Learn more »](#)



1.20-25 | New York

AMY VENSEL at THE PAINTING CENTER

New Optics is an exhibition featuring Amy Vensel and 15 other artists whose work generates a dialogue with painting that is more than self-expression. This work challenges us to think about our contemporary condition today, and about contemporary art's relation to it. Opening Reception is Thurs January 9th, 6-8 pm.

[Learn more »](#)

Img (left): *Waal*, acrylic on canvas, 15.75 x 15.75"
Amy Vensel, 2019

1.23 | Philadelphia

EMMA COPLEY EISENBERG at FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

Blue Stoop and The Free Library of Philly launch Emma Copley Eisenberg's new book, *The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia*. Featuring special guest Sarah Marshall of *You're Wrong About*, a podcast about misremembered history. 7:30-8:30pm.

[Learn more »](#)



Image

Composer/Pianist Michael Harrison awarded Guggenheim Fellowship, 2019
Photo credit Heon-Ju Kim

Support Millay Colony

As you probably already know, our End of Year Appeal is in full swing. That said, did you know it costs \$6000 for each resident for a month-long stay at Steepletop? Please consider a contribution so that we may continue our visionary programming and click the **GIVE NOW** button!

Your gift of \$20 funds our grant-making assistance offered free to alumni

Your gift of \$40 helps pay for grounds-keeping and those beautiful trail/hikes

Your gift of \$80 funds groceries for a week for one resident

I support artists and the works of artists that enrich lives globally

GIVE NOW

Your gift of \$100 funds arts-enrichment for English-Language Learners facilitated by Teaching Artists/alumni

Your gift of \$200 funds partnerships with other organizations to ensure an essential diversity of residents

Your gift of \$400 helps maintain our historic Barn and fully-accessible Main House

Your gift of \$600 helps keep the lights on and the studios warm

Your gift of \$1000 funds stipends to offset travel & materials



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