



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural Artists Selected For

Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence Program

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the inaugural artists selected for the Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program, which will be housed in the newly remodeled second floor of the Mackinac Island Visitor's Center, formerly the 1915 Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks Artist-In-Residence Program is designed to promote and encourage the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island. The two- and three-week residencies will begin in early June and continue through early October.

The selected artist will provide two public presentations (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) during their residencies and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months.

The inaugural class includes:

- Melissa Lewis, a writer and poet, will complete her new book, *Anchor*, using her time on Mackinac Island to help generate new poems, edit existing ones, and make decisions on order and inclusion to ready the collection for publication.

- Mary Pflum Peterson is an award-winning television journalist and playwright currently working on a screenplay set in the Midwest. During her Mackinac Island residency, she will pen an original play that pays tribute to Mackinac's rich car-less history.
- Andy Sacksteder, a sculptor, has won several awards during the international art show in Grand Rapids, ArtPrize, including first place in 2015 for his sculptures "Reach and Splash." He will sculpt a life-sized bust of a person historically relevant and significant to Mackinac Island during his stay.
- Mary Bea McWatters is a local artist with galleries in Petoskey and Mackinac Island. During her residency she envisions hopping on her bike each morning and evening to explore the island with her easel, canvas, sketch pad and camera. Her goal will be to create a new series of paintings and drawings that explores the natural beauty of Mackinac Island.
- Roger MacNaughton is a multi-award-winning performing musician-turned-composer hailing from Ada, MI. He was won several first-place music composition awards at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, several awards for his song *Charlevoix Keepsake*, and composed the closing score during the 2013 holiday episode of *CSI*. He will use his time on Mackinac to compose 8-12 pieces inspired by his stay on Mackinac Island.
- Katherine Downie is a painter interested in the architectural history of Mackinac Island, and hopes to paint as many of the historic buildings as possible during her residency. She has won multiple awards for her work, including the Ann Arbor PowerArt! Competition in 2016. She has held several exhibitions in the Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids areas.
- Mia Cinelli is a designer, artist and educator who creates images, objects and interactions ranging from digital typefaces to poetic sculptures. Her typographic works have garnered national and international acclaim. Her typeface "Fayette" was inspired by Fayette, MI, and has won the Silver Graphics Award and was published in Graphis Typography Annual 4. She intends to create a new digital typeface inspired by the history of Mackinac Island and/or Fort Mackinac.

"We are excited to see this project come to fruition in 2019," said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter. "We are looking forward to hosting talented artists and watching them create art inspired by Mackinac."

Dates and times of workshops are still being arranged and will be announced at a later date.

A jury of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Island Arts Council, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation selected from the pool of 200 applicants. Selections were made solely on the basis of merit and how the artist's work can advance the program's goal of encouraging the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island.

Images are available upon request. [A downloadable version of the press release can be found here.](#)

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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