

2019 Artists in Residence

February 2019

Brian Martens (past Pond Farmer)

Writing/Poetry

<https://www.facebook.com/brianmartenspoet/?ref=settings>

Work during Residency:

I have always been a poet at heart and have, in the last few years, dedicated my life to writing and exploring poetry as my passion. I attended Pond Farm for three summer sessions. ('73, '74, & '75) This is a perfect residency for me to explore in nature's silence what it means to "be in Nature." This working and absorbing nature in this remote area is exciting because I will be able to be in close contact with nature and all the animals there. Also, because of Marguerite's teaching, this land has a special significance for me in regards to the feeling of the place as Marguerite's presence can still be felt there.

Community Engagement:

Will teach creativity workshops for adults who are interested in finding and exploring their creative passions. These would be held at Pond Farm. I would also like to do a workshop with the youth at risk program. This workshop with kids could be done in nature or at the Stewards office. I would also like to do speaking engagements/readings in the Guerneville area, and the county. These will be a mix of poetry reading, exploring creativity, and what I learned from Marguerite by attending Pond Farm classes.

March 2019

Mary Grisey

Visual Arts/Textiles

www.marygrisey.com

Work during Residency:

My specific project concept weaves together sculptural and sonic elements inspired by the Myth of Er in Book X of Plato's Republic. Basically I would like to create a "The Spindle of Necessity", which is a device that reveals a life review of all things in the past, present and future. It will consist of a series of large-scale linen weavings created from my floor loom that emulates the device. These weavings will interact site-specifically with the contours of the space as they will be hung from the ceiling in a circular, spiral shape and parts of it draped onto the floor. Inside the woven spiral, portable and wireless speakers would be embedded and hidden within the weavings, and the viewer will be invited to walk inside the woven spiral, experiencing the sound emanating from the woven "walls". These auditory elements mirror the songs of the Fates and echo traces of the past, present and future, and the ruinous materiality of my sculptural work.

Community Engagement:

I would like to engage with the community by offering a natural dye workshop, first Friday art walks, an artist talk and offering a weaving to the residency as a token of gratitude.

April 2019

Minal Hajratwala

Mixed Media Poetry

www.minalhajratwala.com

Work during Residency:

WOUND THEORY: Poetry for a Charnel Era

Out of the wound of European war, the Bauhaus as a movement—and Marguerite Wildenhain as an exemplar—sparked new beginnings based in creative spontaneity and rigorous attention to craft. We live in a time of great wounds, and creating work that aims to address these, directly or indirectly, seems to me the only way to honor the legacy of our artistic and political ancestors. In a time of shocking political (obviously) and personal grief (the death of my father, and the subsequent ripple through every synapse of our family), I find myself yearning for creative sanctuary such as that which Pond Farm seems to have always provided.

For my next book, a poetry volume with the working title WOUND THEORY, I feel that I need a much more solitary process. The book takes as its core the tantric possibility of digesting that which is unassimilable/unbearable/taboo, and exposing it with a rigorous, meditative focus. I have drafted portions of the work, and would emerge from the residency with a complete manuscript ready to submit to the two presses who have expressed interest.

Community Engagement:

Conduct at least two FOREST FOR THE TREES transhuman poetics workshop where participants will connect with nature and write poetry. The workshops could culminate in a public reading of “Forest for the Trees” poems -- allowing workshop participants to bring the voices of the Pond Farm ecosystem out to the human community in a library, bookstore, or similar space.

May 2019

Allison Dana Spreadborough

Visual Arts

www.allisonspreadborough.com

Work during Residency:

I'm a watercolor artist and Northern California native most inspired by the natural environment of the California coast, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and deserts. My work draws parallels between natural forces in the world of form through art, geology and botany and the formlessness of space. My primary painting practices combine plein air along with studio work and intuitive painting practices.

During my residency I intend to paint local landscapes and botanicals in plein air mostly around the Austin Creek SRA or the immediate residency grounds. For each week of the residency, I'll complete either two full sheet watercolor paintings (22" x 30") or four half-sheet watercolor paintings. In reality, I'll probably paint a great many more paintings. I will use my uninterrupted residency time to delve deeply into working in a larger format free from day to day disruptions.

Community Engagement:

To engage with the community, I will provide several one hour workshops to park visitors and staff on plein air nature journaling practices which reflect local plants and topography.

I'd also like to work with other local artists to present a public gallery show of art based primarily on the history and natural beauty of the Austin Creek SRA. In addition, I will donate a watercolor that exemplifies the natural environment of the Austin Creek SRA. It may be a botanically related painting or a landscape.

June 2019**Jacqueline Mallegni**

Visual Arts

Writing/Poetry

<http://www.mallegni.com>**Work during Residency:**

I'm a native Californian living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Patterns in nature, textures and seasonal changes have always played an important role in my art practice along with discipline, the internal wisdom transformed into sculpture and Japanese aesthetics of "Wabi-Sabi" (beauty that is imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete).

I am a papermaker, and have also worked with clay, metal and stone. I create mixed media sculpture with natural materials and handmade kozo or gampi paper incorporating indigo, sumi ink, shifu, kibiso and flax roving.

Living in West Marin for almost 30 years, I recall hearing about Pond Farm as an artist colony. I remember thinking how wonderful it would have been to meet Marguerite Wildenhain. I deeply resonate with her quote about opening one's senses to nature and its strong influence on artwork. I believe the influence of nature also influences a lifestyle choice whereby art and life merge.

During my residency, I hope to accomplish the following:

1. To create a body of work to accompany my second book entitled: "Transition Still: Movement".
2. To have a quiet place in which to write.
3. To regain a sense of balance that only long periods of communion with nature can provide.
4. Begin the transition to return to rural California.

Community Engagement:

I would be happy to offer a workshop using the flax fiber technique. I call this class "Shaping Space with Flax Fiber". It's become very popular and it's an easy technique to learn. I could manage up to 10 participants, teens and adults.

Will also give a piece of art.
