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Artists Announced for Second Annual Artist-in-Residence Program on Mackinac Island

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the artists selected for the second annual Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program, which is housed in the 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 one public presentation (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) on the second Wednesday of their residencies at 7:00 p.m. and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months.

The residents for 2020 include:

- Rachael Van Dyke, June 8 – June 21, workshop June 17: Van Dyke is eager to explore and be inspired by walking and bicycling the island and interpreting the island's unique

geography and history through works on paper, wood panel, and a series of canvas pieces. Her landscape work, which mainly reflects the organic movements in the ridges and valleys of the land, will be freshly inspired by the new visual language she will be challenged to create as she considers Lake Huron, the docks and water vessels, the historic homes, hotels, horse carriages, museums and forts, and even the hustle and bustle of tourism on Main Street.

- Cassandra Beaver, June 22 – July 12, workshop July 1: Beaver’s artistic field is textile arts with a focus on quilting. Each design she creates is rooted in community, personal experience, and the history of the craft. Architecture, nature, and the serendipitous convergence of colors, patterns, textures, and motifs in her immediate environment are her inspirations. Through textiles she explores space, scale, and the layering of pattern, color, and texture. Her work honors the tradition of quilting while breaking down expectations of traditional block-based quilts. She’s looking forward to exploring Mackinac Island and creating designs reflecting the natural and unique historic architecture of the area.
- Kristin Hosbein, July 13 – July 26, workshop July 22: Hosbein has been painting in the plein-air tradition for the past eleven years, capturing what she sees from a unique perspective. Her paintings are recognized by her gestural brushwork, innovative use of color, and light-filled compositions. The messages within her paintings are simple and singular: a moment, a memory, or an impression. Her style of painting is contemporary realism, with roots in impressionism, working mostly in oil. No matter the subject, she enjoys the work of painting and capturing a special moment, and she is delighted to be spending time on the island connecting with people to spread joy.

- Jane Kramer, July 27 – August 9, workshop August 5: Since 2013, Kramer has been working on a body of work titled *Foreshadowing – Endangered & Threatened Plant Species*. For this project, she has photographed the shadows of Michigan’s endangered and threatened plant species and, using an alcohol gel process, transfer the shadow images onto paper she makes from invasive plant species such as garlic mustard and phragmites. During her residency she would like to create a print that is specific to Mackinac Island, made solely from materials found on the island, and she is hoping to collaborate with park staff to learn about and locate endangered plant species on the island.
- Sage Webb, August 10 – August 30, workshop August 19: Webb spent more than a decade in federal criminal defense before turning to fiction, and this background informs her literary work. Her first novel, *The Unremarkable Circumstances of Inmate 17656-090* explores issues of mass incarceration, mental health, childhood trauma, and sentencing policy. She has won several awards for her short stories, and her works have been published in several reviews. While on the island, she will work on a collection of short stories and flash fiction based on what she has seen, heard, and experienced.
- Patrick Wise, August 31 – September 13, workshop September 9: Wise is a full-time fine artist and part-time art educator based in the Harbor Springs and Petoskey areas. He grew up in the Petoskey area and recently returned, and he uses the land, lakes, and rivers to inspire his work. His intent during his residency is to create daily paintings that take a close look at the nuance of change in context to the larger changes that have come about, with the goal of encouraging conversation about where we think our environment might be going and our role in it.

- Jason Guenzel, September 14 – October 4, workshop September 23: Over the last decade Guenzel has pushed the boundaries of amateur astrophotography with a concentration on “deep sky” subjects of galaxies and nebulae. As an engineer by trade, he enjoys the technical aspects of this challenging process. His focus has now expanded into creative nightscape photography, which incorporates an interesting terrestrial foreground with the night sky backdrop. Having access to the historic sites of Mackinac Island set underneath a pristine night sky will further this pursuit. His goal during the residency is to incorporate the natural beauty of the island into dramatic photographs of the night landscape.

“Mackinac State Historic Parks is very pleased with the artists selected for the 2020 artist in residence season on Mackinac Island,” said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter. “We have a diverse group of talented artists who look forward to being inspired by Mackinac and sharing their creativity through interactive workshops.”

A jury of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Island Arts Council, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation selected from a pool of 30 qualified 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

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, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State 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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